

Title: Visitation During Communicable Disease Outbreak-FL

Policy Number: WEL-134-FLVisitation

Effective Date: 01/01/2022

Revision Date: 9/03/2025

Applicable Level of Care: IL, AL & MC - Florida

Policy: It is the American House Policy to follow the appropriate guidelines for visitation in Florida during a Communicable Disease Outbreak.

Purpose: To ensure resident visitation rights during a communicable disease outbreak.

Procedure:

The Executive Director and/or designee is responsible for ensuring that staff and visitors adhere to the following policies and procedures:

Infection Control

- Infection Control measures will be implemented for both prevention of disease and response to controlling the spread of disease. See “Communicable Disease” policy. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Use of hand sanitizer and promoting proper hand washing
 - Use of appropriate PPE when indicated (i.e. mask, gown)
 - Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces

Education

Visitors will have access to education regarding communicable disease infection prevention and PPE utilization. See “Communicable Disease” policy.

Screening

Screening is not required for either staff or visitors prior to entering the building.

In the scenario that a visitor would like to screen themselves for an elevated temperature, supplies will be provided.

Personal Protective Equipment

In the scenario that a visitor would like PPE and they cannot provide their own, appropriate PPE will be provided to them.

See “Standards for Use of Facial Coverings-Florida” Policy

Indoor Visits

Residents will not be denied the right to have visits in any of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

- End-of-life circumstances
- A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the community.

- A resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
- A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
- A resident who needs cuing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- Indoor visits should always be available for all residents, regardless of a resident's vaccination status.
- Visitors cannot be compelled to show or provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.
- Length and time of visits are not limited.
- Locations of visits will not be monitored or limited.
- Consensual physical contact is allowed between a resident and a visitor.

Essential Caregiver

- In addition to any visitation, the resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an Essential Caregiver.
- It is not required that the Essential Caregiver provide necessary care to a resident.
- After normal visitation hours, the Essential Caregiver may have additional in-person access, including a minimum of at least 2 hours daily, including during the times that residents have any of the following scenarios:
 - Unknown communicable disease status; or
 - Negative communicable disease status; or
 - Positive communicable disease status.
- A Negative communicable disease test result is not required for Essential Caregivers.

For Essential Caregivers

- Length and time of visits are not limited.
- Total number of visitors is not monitored or limited.
- Locations of visits will not be monitored or limited. A resident's preference for where the visit occurs should be accommodated unless doing so would place the resident and/or visitor at risk for health and/or safety.
- The Community may deny an Essential Caregiver the right to visit if they fail to comply with all visitation requirements.
- Consensual physical contact is allowed between an Essential Caregiver and a resident.