

# New East Side Nursing Home

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## VISITATION POLICY

**Policy:** On March 13, 2020, the Department of Health issued guidance to all nursing homes limiting visitation to medically necessary or end of life services. On July 10, 2020, this guidance was updated and will now permit outside visitation and limited indoor visitation, so long as the facility meets specific benchmarks and develop a re-opening plan via the NY Forward Safety Plan. Nursing Homes that are located in a region that is in Phase 3, which New East Side Nursing Home is, may resume limited visitation under certain conditions, which will be depicted below. New East Side Nursing Home continues to test its staff on a weekly basis or bi-weekly as directed, in the event a staff member tests positive, visitation shall “HALT”, and the 14 day Waiting Window shall start again. **As of 11/12/21, residents may have visitors at any time.** This policy was created by the Interdisciplinary team utilizing the Health Advisory dated July 10, 2020, and the Health Advisory’s dated 2/22/2021, 3/25/21, and the CMS Guidance 11/12/21, and 1/12/2022 Health Advisory. This policy is updated as of 10/13/22 Health Advisory.

**\*\*\* As of 10/13/22 Health Advisory, testing of all visitors shall continue to remain in effect**

**\*\*\* As of 3/25/21, based on the Health Advisory, facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents except for a few circumstances:**

- **Unvaccinated residents if the nursing COVID19 county positivity rate is higher than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated**
- **Residents with confirmed COVID19 until they meet the criteria to discontinue Transmission Based Precautions**
- **Any residents in quarantine, until they meet the criteria for release from quarantine.**

**\*\*\*\* UPDATE ::: As of 11/12/2021 – the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times in nursing homes, effective immediately.**

**\*\*\*\* Update ::: 1/12/2022 – Health Advisory – Visitors must present a negative SARs Cov2 test result one day prior to visitation for antigen test (Rapid), and 2 days prior to visitation for PCR tests. As of 10/13/22, testing to continue or proof to be provided prior to visitation.**

**Procedure:**

1. Visitations shall be limited to outdoor areas ( Courtyard), weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, or extreme heat or extreme cold, visitation can be inside the facility. However, visitation is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN RESIDENT ROOMS OR RESIDENT CARE AREAS. Update 3/25/21, facility has a dedicated visitation area which will be continued to be used.** – As of 11/12/21, visits may occur in resident rooms at all times during normal visiting hours.

2. **No more than 10% ( UPDATE AS OF 2/26/2021 -20%) ( Update as of 3/25/21 – no longer any percentage limitation).**of the residents shall have visitors at any one time and only 2 visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time. This facility shall utilize a Visitor Expectation Fact sheet which will be mailed to all family members to explain the post COVID19 Visitation Policy. The Director of Activities/Social Worker/Designee will schedule such visits. **As of 3/25/21, the Director of Activities/ SW/Designee will continue to schedule visits in our dedicated visitation area with time considerations to allow for additional visitors. If weather outdoors allows, visits will be held outdoors for resident and staff safety.**

**As of 11/12/2021 – visitations do not need to be scheduled any longer.**

3. Visiting hours will be from 10am – 5pm, in the interim to facilitate scheduled visits. **As of 11/12/21, visiting hours will return to normal, suggested hours are 11am to 8pm. In the event a visitor requests to visit outside of these times, please contact the Social Worker so that we may assist with visitation.**

4. Limited visitation shall be limited to the following categories:

- Family members
- Loved ones
- Representatives from the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program – **If resident is on transmission based precautions, the resident and the Ombudsman shall be made aware of the potential risk of visiting, and the visit may only take place in resident room**
- Resident Advocacy Organizations
- State Survey Agency

**As of 11/12/2021, there is no longer a limitation to whom may visit a resident. Resident may refuse visitor at any time.**

5. **All visitors must present a verified negative test result within the last week (7 days) and visitation shall be refused if the visitor fails to present such negative test result. As of 3/25/21, Health Advisory, - New East Side Nursing Home does not offer visitor testing, but we do encourage any visitor to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility 2 to 3 days prior. Proof of testing is no longer required as a condition of visitation.**

**\*\*\*\* UPDATE --- AS OF 11/12/2021 – NO REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PROOF OF TEST CONTINUES BUT IS ENCOURAGED.**

**\*\*\*\* 1/12/2022 UPDATE – HEALTH ADVISORY – VISITORS MUST HAVE RECEIVED A NEGATIVE SARS COV 2 TEST RESULT ONE DAY PRIOR TO VISIT WITH RAPID ANTIGEN TEST OR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO VISIT FOR PCR TESTS. VISITOR MAY PRESENT EITHER. As of 10/13/22, testing to continue.**

**VISITORS WHO VISIT ON MULTIPLE DAYS INCLUDING EVERYDAY VISITOR, PROOF OF NEGATIVE TEST IS REQUIRED AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, AT A MINIMUM EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY. NEW EAST SIDE SHALL PROVIDE RAPID TESTS AS GIVEN BY NYS DEPT OF HEALTH, IF FEASIBLE.**

All visitors shall continue to be screened for Signs/Symptoms (Temp/Screen Form at Reception Area). First Name, Last Name, Street Address of the Visitor, Daytime/Evening Telephone Number, Date/Time of Visit. No visitor will be permitted without completing and passing the Screen. Documentation of screenings shall be maintained onsite. **End of life and compassionate care visits are not subject to a verified negative test but are subject to all other COVID19 screening requirements.**

**\*\*\* Update, as of 2/26/2021, nursing homes may expand visitation, County rates below 5%, New East Side policy will require a negative test result within the last 7 days as was previously required prior to the visit. For County Rates between 5% to 10%, visitors shall present a negative COVID19 test result within the past 72 Hours. For County Rates 10% or higher, visitation must only occur for compassionate care situations. Of course visitation shall occur according to the core principles of COVID19 Prevention. –**

**UPDATE- As of 11/12/2021 – the above no longer applies.**

**1/12/22 – SEE ABOVE REGARDING NEGATIVE TEST RESULT FOR VISITORS.**

6. All visitors must wear a mask or face covering when entering and must hand rub using facility provided alcohol-based hand rub (facility may supply facemask/covering if visitor does not have) **and visitor must maintain Social Distancing except when assisting resident with wheelchair mobility.** Upon completion of “indoor visitation”, the Housekeeping Department will be notified, and the area will be cleaned and disinfected using a EPA approved disinfectant (facility utilizes Q.T. Plus, PDI Wipes/Sani-Wipes, Electro-disinfectant machine).

7. Any visitor under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

8. While being supervised by facility staff, any visitor which fails to adhere to protocols in place, shall be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID19 state declared public health emergency. – **update – PHE in NY discontinued, however, staff will monitor visitations.**

9. Visitors must keep masks/face coverings on at all times, masks/face coverings may NEVER be lowered when speaking to residents, as well as no hugging or touching. Facility staff supervising visits will be watching specifically for compliance. **As of 3/25/21, as per the**

**Health Advisory, for any resident that is fully vaccinated, they may choose to have close contact (including touch), with the visitor while wearing a mask and hand hygiene performed before and after (sanitizing hand wipes) for both the visitor and the resident.**

**UPDATE – 11/12/21 – the above is still in effect**

10. The Department of Health may “HALT” visitation at any facility at any time due to community or facility spread of infection or if New East Side should fall out of compliance with State/Federal requirements. In addition, there must not be a new onset of COVID19 cases in the last 14 days, and the facility is not currently conducting outbreak testing, in either of these situations, visitations shall also be halted. **UPDATE 3/25/21, When a new case of COVID19 among staff, residents is identified, visitations shall be halted as before, however, based on the 3/25/21 Health Advisory, until 1 round of facility wide testing is completed. As long as the first round of testing reveals no additional cases, then visitation may continue again for residents on units with no COVID cases. There shall be no visitation for residents on any affected unit. IF during the first round of testing reveals one or more additional cases, then the facility shall suspend ALL visitations for all residents until we meet criteria to discontinue testing. Facility representative shall inform visitors. Should that occur, Administration shall inform families in writing/and or via FaceTime, Zoom, their desired communication method, or other electronic means.**

**UPDATE – as of 11/12/2021 – visits still permitted however highly recommended not to enter during an OUTBREAK.**

11. If there are any COVID19 residents , residents with COVID19 signs and symptoms, and residents in a 14 day quarantine /observation period, these residents are not eligible for visits.

**UPDATE – 11/12/21 – these residents may have a visitor, recommended not to have however if so, must follow CORE Principles of Infection Control, gown, gloves, mask.**

12. Compassionate care visitation – does not necessarily refer to end of life situations. Compassionate care visits, and visits required under federal disability rights law, shall be allowed at all times and can be arranged. The vaccination status of the resident, county positivity rate, or outbreak status does not apply in these situations. – **Update – 11/12/21 – no longer applies, resident may have visitor anytime, FACILITY SHALL NOTIFY IF ON TRANSMISSION BASED PRECAUTIONS.**

**\*\*\* At all times during all visitations, the CORE Principles consistent with CDC guidelines are followed and adhered to at all times.**

Effective

9/ 21/ 2020, 2/26/2021, 3/25/2021, 11/12/21, 1/12/2022, 10/13/22