

## Cassena Care at Norwalk COVID-19 Visitation Fact Sheet



On November 12, 2021, CMS issued a revision to the Guidelines for Nursing Home Visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) issued guidance in full alignment with the CMS revised visitation guidelines.

At this time, facilities must allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents. As per revised Federal and state guidance, facilities can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advanced scheduling of visits. Visitation will be allowed for, including, but not limited to, family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations. A copy of the Facility's formal visitation plan is posted on the website.

1. **Visits are permitted at all times and for all residents. Visitors are not required to make appointments in advance. We invite you to visit during recommended visitation hours of 10am-9pm.**
2. Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits must be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and allows for physical distancing to be maintained. *The facility reserves the right to limit the number of visitors for each resident at any one time as necessary to maintain core principles of COVID-19 infection control.*
3. **The facility, its residents, and families will continue to adhere to the core principles of infection control at all times to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, including, but not limited to:**
  - Screening of all who enter the facility. Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility;
  - Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred);
  - The use of face coverings or masks (covering mouth and nose) in accordance with CDC guidance;
  - Physical distancing at least six feet between persons, in accordance with CDC guidance;
  - Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene);
  - Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, **and designated visitation areas after each visit;**
  - Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
  - Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care);
  - Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO-20-38-NH).
4. The Facility will screen visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and will prohibit entry to visitor(s) exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or that do not pass the screening questions. Screening shall consist of temperature checks and questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19.
  - The following information must be provided for each visitor: first and last name of the visitor, time of facility entry, temperature, telephone number, and resident name and room number.

5. Given the continued risk of COVID-19 transmission, **visitors are encouraged to get tested in the community prior to coming to the facility** (2-3 days prior to visit). The Facility offers rapid COVID-19 testing to all visitors as needed in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
6. Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation. The Facility encourages visitors to become vaccinated to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
7. Visitors will be required to appropriately use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, provided by the Facility, prior to visiting the residents.
8. Visitor movement throughout the facility should be limited. Visitors should go directly to the designated visitation area or the resident's room.
9. Visitors should continue to physically distance at least 6 feet from other residents, visitors and staff in the facility and wear a face mask which always covers both the nose and mouth when on the premises of the facility.
10. **Outdoor visitation is preferred** even when the resident and visitor(s) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (except in instances of inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, or poor air quality). Visits should be held outdoors whenever feasible/practicable.
11. Indoor visitation is allowed at all times for all residents, regardless of vaccination status and must take place in a space to ensure individuals are appropriately socially distanced.
  - **Visits for residents who share a room should ideally not be conducted in the resident's room with a roommate present.** For situations when there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, the Facility will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including physical distancing and use of face masks.
12. Visits may take place for the resident and visitor's desired length of time to the extent possible, in consideration of the core principles of infection control and to respect the privacy of other residents in the event a resident shares a room.
13. If **both the resident and their visitor(s) are fully vaccinated and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised**, and the resident and visitor(s) are alone in the resident room or designated visitation area, the resident and visitor may choose to have close contact (including touch) without a face mask or face covering **and must perform hand-hygiene before and after.**
14. While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during a COVID-19 outbreak investigation, visitors will still be allowed in the facility. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
  - If residents would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they should wear face coverings during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.
15. **In accordance with federal and state guidelines, if any visitor fails to adhere to the Facility's visitation plan and to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, he/she/they will be not be permitted to visit and may be asked to leave.**