**Dear residents, family members and friends,**

[Name of Nursing Home] is committed to keeping our residents safe and we need your help.

The virus causing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) can cause outbreaks in long-term care facilities. Many of our residents are in the high-risk group for COVID-19 and may have medical conditions putting them at an extremely high risk of becoming sick, severely ill, and death. Being up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations decreases the risk for residents and visitors; however, the risk is not eliminated.

Unfortunately, even one resident who becomes infected with COVID-19 can greatly impact the health and well-being of other residents. Outbreaks occur quickly in a congregate community, such as our nursing home.

We ask you to help protect our residents. For the safety of your loved one and our [Name of Nursing Home] community of residents, we ask that all visitors follow core infection prevention practices while inside our facility.

**You will see our posters inside the building to help guide you with these practices.**

* All visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must report any:
	+ Symptoms of COVID-19
	+ Positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test completed within the past 10 days
	+ Close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 10 days
* Visitors with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or compatible symptoms should defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they have met the healthcare criteria to end isolation which is 5 days for mild or no symptoms. If symptoms were moderate to severe then defer in-person visitation for 10 days.
* Visitors who have had close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection or were in another situation that put them at [higher risk for transmission](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/risks-exposure.html), it is safest to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until 10 days after the close contact
* Visitors and residents should use alcohol-based hand sanitizer/rub or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after each visit (and while visiting if touching resident or resident’s items) and practice physical distancing when in large gatherings
* Regardless of vaccination status, residents and visitors should wear a face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) in accordance with CDC [Guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html)
* If the nursing home is in covid outbreak status, visitors should go directly to the resident’s room or visiting area and directly out of the facility when the visit has ended

Sources:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) September 23, 2022](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Flong-term-care.html)

[CMS guidance QSO-20-39-NH revised 9/23/2022, Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf) [FAQs start on page 10]

During times of increased visitation, such as weekends and holidays, we ask that visitors abide by these guidelines. An increased number of visitors in the facility can impact the health and well-being of our residents at [Name of Nursing Home]. In addition, when the weather allows, visiting outdoors is safer and preferred to indoor visitation.

**Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our residents healthy and safe.**