



Update as of March 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Over the past couple of days, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have imposed more severe restrictions on visitations. **Effective immediately, visits from family members, friends and non-essential health care personnel are no longer permitted.** Exceptions will be made only in compassionate care situations such as end-of-life care (and in those cases, restricted to the resident's room *only*). All visitors entering the facility for compassionate care purposes will be screened prior to their entrance. No visitors will be permitted if they show signs of respiratory infection (fever, cough or sore throat), have been in contact with someone with or under investigation for the COVID-19, or have traveled outside of the country within the last 14 days to any restricted countries.

Upon leaving the facility, all visitors should self-monitor for signs and symptoms for 14 days. Should symptoms occur during this time period, they should self-isolate at home, contact their healthcare provider, immediately notify the facility of the date they visited who they were in contact with and the locations they visited.

Some additional steps we are taking to minimize resident and staff risk include:

- Cancellation of all internal and external communal dining and group activities.
- Active screening of all residents and staff for fever and respiratory symptoms; all staff will be screened at the beginning of each shift. Any ill staff members identified will be immediately be sent home to seek care and self-isolate.
- Ongoing reminders of the importance of social distancing and proper hand hygiene.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 developments at the local and national level to ensure that we have the most effective precautions in place. We are committed to keeping our residents and families apprised of any new developments regarding visitation.

We know that family visits are important, and we hope to ease visitation restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we welcome your comments and input, as well as any suggestions you may have for how we can enhance our care and services.

As always, our Mission leads the way in our response and in all the work we do. We serve together, and our concept of TogetherHealth has never been more important than it is today. In the spirit of the Gospel, we care for all, including one another, in body, mind and spirit. We will be a transforming and healing presence in the community, instilling calm and continuing to help people care for themselves and their families.

More information on COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Thank you for your patience and understanding.