

MISSISSIPPI METHODIST SENIOR SERVICES, INC.
Skilled Nursing Facility, Personal Care, Assisting Living and
Memory Support COVID-19 Visiting, Dining, and Life Enrichment
Activities Protocol

Purpose

MSS respects the elders right to receive visitors and understands that elders derive value from physical, emotional, and spiritual support they receive throughout engagement with family and friends. To protect elders from the physical and emotional toll that isolation causes, safe visiting, dining, and life enrichment activities guidelines are being encouraged.

Protocol Guidelines

Visits will be based on the core principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and denial of entry of those with signs and symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days – regardless of vaccination status
- Hand Hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub
- Face mask (covering the nose and mouth)
- Social distancing – 6 feet is recommended
- Instructional signage and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, and other “house rules” (how to get to the visiting area, hand hygiene, face masks, etc.)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces throughout the facility often, and cleaning and disinfecting visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required

Visitors who do not adhere to the core principles will be asked to leave.

Outdoor Visits:

Outdoor visits are preferred when the elder or visitors are not fully vaccinated. These visits pose a lower risk due to increased space and airflow.

Indoor Visits:

Facilities will accommodate indoor visits without limiting the frequency of and the length of the visits, nor the number or age of visitors. The facility shall not require advanced scheduling of visits.

Facilities will accommodate indoor visits with the following guidelines:

- Visitors will be required to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- Visitor will be allowed to only visit with their family or friend.

Effective Date: 9/28/2020
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- Physical distancing should be maintained.

Elders who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 are eligible for visits in the elder's room with elder wearing a mask if tolerated. The visitor must be informed of the potential risk and precautions necessary.

Providers of services that elders need can be permitted into the facility after screening. If there is a risk for transmission of Covid, the representative must be informed of the potential risk and necessary precautions.

Communal dining and group activities should occur. Face masks should be encouraged.

Outbreak Investigation Guidelines for Visitors:

When there is a positive case, group testing of elders and employees will begin immediately. Within 3-7 days group testing will be conducted again. Testing will continue every 3-7 days until the facility goes 14 days with no positive results. While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will be allowed in the building after being made aware of the potential risk and adherence to the core principles of infection prevention.