

MISSISSIPPI METHODIST SENIOR SERVICES, INC.
**MSS Skilled Nursing Facility COVID-19 Visiting, Dining, and Life
Enrichment Activities Protocol**

Purpose

MSS understands that elders derive value from physical, emotional, and spiritual support they receive throughout visitation from 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 enacted.

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
- Hand Hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub
- Face mask (covering the nose and mouth)
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet – if a resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact with visitors while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after. Visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility
- 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 and may not be permitted to return until the COVID-19 PHE is over.

Outdoor Visits:

Outdoor visits are preferred as these visits pose a lower risk due to increased space and airflow. It is preferred that no elder have more than 2 visitors at a time. Visits are limited in size to promote safe infection prevention actions. Visits may be limited in time to help ensure all residents can receive visitors.

Exceptions to Outdoor Visit guidelines include:

- Inclement weather
- Individual elder’s health status
- Facility’s outbreak status **may** be considered

Indoor Visits:

Facilities will accommodate indoor visits unless:

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- Facility is in a current outbreak: when an outbreak is discovered all indoor visits other than end of life and compassionate care will be stopped until one round of testing is completed and it is certain that the virus is isolated. Different areas of the building and different Green House Homes may open back up to indoor visits before others based on testing results.
- County positivity rate is greater than 10% on the COVID-19 Viral Laboratory 14-Day Test Spreadsheet and less than 70% of the residents are fully vaccinated – end of life and compassionate visits only during this time (if greater than 70% of the residents are fully vaccinated, indoor visits can continue).
- Residents who are on quarantine can only receive compassionate care and end of life visits. Newly admitted elders who are fully vaccinated (two weeks post last vaccination in the series) are not required to be in quarantine.

Facilities will accommodate indoor visits with the following guidelines:

- Visitors adhere to the core principles
- The number of visits occurring in the same area of the building at one time will be determined by location.
- Visitor movement is limited in the facility. Visitors will be escorted by a staff member to the area designated for their visit and escorted to the exit following the visit. If visiting an elder in a private room, it may be permissible to visit in the elder's room. If visiting an elder who lives in a semiprivate room, a designated visiting area will be used.

End of life determination is made by the clinical team.

Compassionate care visits will be discussed by the Interdisciplinary Team and included in the resident's plan of care. Visitors may include family members and friends. See QSO-20-39-NH for more guidance on compassionate care visits.

Elders who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 are eligible for window visits, virtual visits, and in-person compassionate care situations, with adherence to transmission-based precautions.

The Ombudsman may visit elders utilizing the same guidelines as the public. A staff member should remain with the Ombudsman if they are visiting more than one elder to remind them of hand hygiene, help with needed PPE, and assist in locating elders.

Providers of services that elders need such as EMS, Hospice, lab, x-ray, etc. can be permitted into the facility after screening. (EMS do not need to be screened in

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emergency situations) Those providing services as well as any volunteers must comply with COVID-19 testing requirements.

Communal dining and group activities **may** occur but outbreak status should be considered. The core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention must be adhered to.

