

Martha Coker

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November 19, 2021

Dear Elders and Family Members,

It is with great joy that cautiously we enter a more normal Holiday Season. We are excited to share the updated MSS COVID-19 guidelines for visiting based on the most recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Mississippi State Department of Health. (*See Attached for Details*)

- **Outdoor Visits:** Outdoor visits are still the safest way to visit, especially for unvaccinated elders or visitors, as they pose a lower risk of virus transmission due to increased space and airflow. (Weather permitting)
- **Indoor Visits:** We will accommodate indoor visits without limiting the frequency of or the length of the visits, nor the number or age of visitors. We will not require advanced scheduling of visits.
  - **ALL VISITORS MUST:** *Adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.*
    - *We will screen all visitors who enter the homes for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and will deny entry to anyone with signs and symptoms of the virus, or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days – regardless of vaccination status.*
    - *We will require the use of proper hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub.*
    - *A face mask (covering the nose and mouth) will be required.*
    - *Social distancing of 6 feet is recommended.*
  - **Visitors who do not adhere to the core principles will be asked to leave.**
  - Visitors will be allowed to only visit with their family or friend and not move freely about the house.
  - **OUTBREAK OCCURANCE:** If we have a positive case in a house, visiting may proceed as noted below.
    - Elders who are quarantined for COVID-19, due to an exposure or a positive case diagnosis, may still have visitors, but only in the elder's room, with the elder wearing a mask, if tolerated. Visitors will be informed of the potential risk and necessary precautions prior to each visit. The choice to visit and assumption of risk will rest upon the visitor.
    - When there is a positive case in a home, group testing of elders and employees will begin immediately. Testing will continue according to guidance set forth by CMS and the MSDH. While it is safer for visitors not to enter a home with a positive case, visitors will be allowed in the home after being made aware of the potential risk and adherence to the core principles of infection prevention. Again, the choice to visit and assumption of risk will rest upon the visitor.

As we enter the Holiday Season, we'd like to remind everyone that the safest protection against COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated. If you have not taken the vaccine, please consider it at this time.

We continue to post weekly campus COVID-19 updates to our online portal and our dedicated message line. You can call 662-844-8977 Ext. 225 for a pre-recorded message or go to [mss.org/MarthaCoker](http://mss.org/MarthaCoker) and click on the COVID-19 Update Button. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Martha Coker office at (662) 746-4621.

Sincerely,



Julie Hoffman

Martha Coker Green House Homes

Executive Director