



MARY ANN MORSE HEALTHCARE CENTER COMMUNITY UPDATE

NEW VISITATION POLICY – March 22, 2021

We are so happy to let you know about the updated guidance we've received on visitations for residents and families from the CDC, CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), and the MA Department of Public Health. The new guidance provides additional flexibility to family visitation in response to vaccination uptake amongst residents and staff and decreasing community transmission. Our visitation policy will evolve as additional guidance is presented. As always, the safety of our residents, staff and family members is our top priority at Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center.

In-Person Visitation

Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center will offer in-person visitation in designated indoor or outdoor visitation spaces, provided that we are able to maintain all of the safety, care and infection control measures as we have during the pandemic. The following are the basic regulations that need to be followed for an indoor or outdoor visit.

- A resident who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 cannot participate in a visit unless it is a compassionate care visit. A resident may be visited if: the resident has recovered from COVID-19; or the resident is quarantined after a recent hospital stay and is not suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, or the resident is not quarantined and have never tested positive for COVID-19.
- Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center must and will screen the visitor for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure within the past 14 days and check the temperature prior to bringing the visitor to the visitation space. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 (Fever of 99.5 F or greater, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgia, chills, new onset of loss of taste of smell) or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days will not be permitted to visit with our residents.
- Visitors should remain at least six feet from the resident and staff members for the majority of the visit.
- Brief close contact, including touch, may be allowed if desired by both the resident and the visitor. In order to reduce risk of transmission, individuals must:
 - Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% ETOH before and after contact
 - Hug with faces in opposite directions and;

- Limit the duration of close physical contact and avoid face to face contact even when face masks are used.
- Residents, as they are able to do so, and visitors must wear a face mask for the duration of the visit.
- Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center will maintain a schedule for frequent cleaning and disinfection of the designated visitation spaces, including cleaning high-touch surfaces using appropriately EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Visits should be limited to one hour so that we may provide visitation for as many as possible and still follow social distancing and other safety protocols. Additionally, we are asking that each resident only receives two visitors at any one time.
- Children may visit at this time, but since there is a strong likelihood that they have not been vaccinated, these visits will need to take place in one of the visitation areas on the ground floor.

Indoor Visitation Space

Visits with residents may occur in our designated indoor spaces on the ground floor and in the Front Lobby. Indoor visits will be dependent on availability of suitable indoor space and on the health and well-being of the resident.

How does it work?

- Visitors will ring the bell and enter through the front door. They will be greeted, logged in, symptom-checked, and asked about vaccination status by the Receptionist and will be directed to a designated indoor visitation space.
- A staff member will go get their loved one and bring them to/from the indoor visitation space.

Outdoor Visitation Space

Visits with residents may occur in our designated outdoor space – the Courtyard. Outdoor visits will be dependent on a permissible weather conditions, availability of suitable outdoor space and the health and well-being of the resident. Visits should be limited to one hour so that we may provide visitation for as many as possible and still follow social distancing and other safety protocols.

How does it work?

- Visitors will ring the bell and enter through the front door. They will be greeted, logged in, symptom-checked, and asked about vaccination status by the Receptionist and will be directed to a designated outdoor visitation space.
- A staff member will go get their loved one and bring them to/from the outdoor visitation space.

- A Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center staff member trained in safety and infection control measures will remain immediately available to the resident at all times during the visit.

For Fully Vaccinated Visitors and Residents Only: Resident Room Visitation Space

In addition to the in-person visitation described above, Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center is able to offer:

- Residents who are fully vaccinated and at least two weeks after their last vaccine may visit with loved ones who are fully vaccinated in their rooms if they reside in a private room or if their roommate is fully vaccinated.

- Residents who are fully vaccinated may visit with loved ones who are fully vaccinated without social distancing, if both parties are wearing face masks, as able.

How does it work?

- Visitors will be greeted, logged in, symptom-checked, and asked about vaccination status by the Receptionist.
- Then they will be directed to their loved one's room where they will visit.
- Visiting upstairs is only allowed in resident's rooms.

Virtual Visitation

In addition to the in-person indoor visitation conditions described above, Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center will continue to offer virtual visits using FaceTime. Please call the activities office (508-433-4405) to schedule a virtual visit with your loved one.

We expect that visitation guidance will continue to evolve over the next several months and we will keep you posted as policies are updated. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work together for a safe visitation experience for all.

Sincerely

Carol Kapolka,
Executive Director