

Dear Wesley Manor Residents and Families,

November 22, 2021

On November 12, 2021, CMS released a [Quality Safety & Oversight memorandum](#) (QSO) to nursing homes related to visitation.

As you are aware, the COVID-19 vaccines have decreased the number of cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes throughout the country since the implementation of the vaccine nearly a year ago. During that time, nursing homes have encouraged all residents, families, visitors, and staff to become vaccinated. On November 4, CMS issued an interim final rule for all programs that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding to implement a vaccine mandate for staff, unless the staff member receives approval for a medical or religious exemption from the vaccine. This vaccine requirement has a phased-in approach, with all covered entities expected to be in full compliance by the January 4, 2022 deadline. Based on studies and nursing home reported cases, vaccines and adherence to the core COVID-19 infection control principles are mitigating COVID-19 outbreaks throughout the country.

**Core Infection Prevention and Control Principles:**

- All individuals who enter a nursing home must be screened for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are denied entry if displaying any symptoms, have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine.
- Appropriate hand hygiene by all staff, residents and visitors.
- Universal source control measures including physical distancing and face coverings.
- Instructional signage throughout the nursing home.
- Cleaning and disinfection of high-touched surfaces.
- Appropriate PPE usage by staff.
- Continued testing of unvaccinated staff on a routine basis and testing of all staff and residents when a nursing home onset COVID-19 case is identified.
- Cohorting and isolation of residents that are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Cohorting is when the residents who are suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 are isolated to a particular area of the nursing home that is closed off to prevent transmission to otherwise healthy individuals with dedicated staffing to those units/areas.

It is vital to the safety of our residents and staff that all visitors always adhere to these core infection prevention and control principals during visits.

## Visitation:

- **Outdoor visitation:** Wesley Manor will facilitate outdoor visitation, weather permitting, and the resident is able to so. Outdoor visitation is preferred, particularly when the resident or the visitor is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visitation also generally poses a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.
- **Indoor visitation:**
  - Will be allowed at all times for all residents.
  - Visits must be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of infection prevention and control, including reducing risk to other residents.
  - We encourage visitors to monitor the number of visitors that are visiting at one time to help maintain physical distancing during the visit. If you desire to have a larger gathering at the nursing home, please contact our facility in advance, and we will attempt to arrange for a larger visitation area that can better accommodate the core infection prevention and control principles.
  - We encourage visitors to maintain awareness of the number of visitors in the building and to conduct their visits in a manner that helps adhere to the core infection prevention and control principles, like physical distancing, and not place other residents at risk.
  - Visitors must take the most direct route to/from the visit location and maintain physical distancing from other residents and staff.
  - If your loved one has a roommate, we encourage the visit to occur outside of the resident room. Visits for those residents with roommates will take place in a separate room in the facility. If visits must occur in the resident's room for those residents with a roommate, we ask that you ensure the privacy curtain is closed for the duration of your visit and that you ensure that core infection prevention and control measures are maintained.
  - When the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker (located at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>) indicates that Jefferson County is in **high (red) or substantial (orange) community transmission**, residents and visitors must maintain source control (face covering usage) throughout the duration of the visit. In addition, Wesley Manor reserves the right to request you to test for COVID-19 prior to your visit. If you decline testing, your visit will not be limited based on declination, however, this may aide in additional infection prevention and control measures.
  - When the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker (located at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>) indicates that Jefferson County is in **moderate (yellow) or low (blue) community transmission**, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to continue to wear face coverings or masks and physically

distance, particularly if either is at increased risk for severe-disease or are unvaccinated. If the resident and all visitor(s) are fully vaccinated and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and to have physical contact. However, visitors must continue to wear face coverings or masks whenever around other residents or staff.

- Residents may choose to have close contact with visitors, however, residents who are unvaccinated should be aware of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit.
- If a resident is in **transmission-based precautions** (indicating they are suspected or confirmed for COVID-19), all visitors will be notified upon entry of the risks of visiting and the precautions necessary. Visits for residents in transmission-based precautions will only occur in the resident's room.
- When a nursing home onset case of COVID-19 is identified, Wesley Manor will continue to have indoor visitation. All visitors will be notified upon entry of a potential COVID-19 outbreak and the potential risks of visiting. All visits will be conducted in the resident's room during an outbreak investigation and all visitors will be expected to maintain face coverings, regardless of vaccination status.
- Compassionate Care Visitation will be implemented if a resident is identified as being severely immunocompromised. During compassionate care visitation Wesley Manor reserves the right to limit the number of visitors the resident is exposed to based on consultation with the resident or their representative.

#### **Communal Dining, Activities and Resident Outings:**

- Wesley Manor will continue to follow CDC guidelines related to communal dining and activities. Current CDC guidelines can be located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- Residents will be allowed to go on outings. Prior to the outing, the resident and the person transporting the resident on an outing will be educated about infection prevention and control measures to mitigate COVID-19.
- When the resident returns, they will be screened for signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to identify if they were possibly around someone with COVID-19. If the resident was possibly exposed to COVID-19 and is not fully vaccinated, they will be placed into quarantine and offered testing per CDC recommendations.
- In certain situations where uncertainty exists about the unvaccinated resident being exposed to COVID-19 (such as a large event like a wedding), Wesley Manor may require the resident to quarantine upon return, regardless of duration of outing.
- Any unvaccinated resident leaving Wesley Manor for longer than 24 hours will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return.

For the safety of all residents and visitors, Wesley Manor strongly encourages all residents and visitors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you would like to be vaccinated, please reach out to a Wesley Manor representative, and we can assist you with locating clinics to become vaccinated.

Please contact Katie Kiper, RN, 502-400-3225, if you have any questions regarding revised visitation, dining, activities, and resident outings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry L. Hoganson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jerry L. Hoganson  
President/Administrator