

*****THIS NEW INDOOR VISITATION GUIDANCE IS NOT YET IN EFFECT AT HERITAGE OF EDINA! PLEASE CONTINUE CURRENT SCHEDULED INDOOR VISITATION UNTIL WE GET A POLICY & PROCEDURE IN PLACE******

GREAT NEWS! We are so thankful that new visitation guidance have been released by the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Less restricted Indoor visitation is now allowed in healthcare facilities such as Heritage of Edina. This guidance is changing even though relaxing current restrictions on indoor visitation might increase the risk for transmission of COVID in our facility. But because we've been able to vaccinate most of our residents and staff, and families will hopefully be getting vaccinated also, that mitigates some of the risks. Besides, expanding visitation has substantial benefits to our residents which makes us all very happy. There are some rules we must follow to allow this visitation.

Indoor visitations would be cancelled if:

- The county COVID-19 positivity rate is > 10%. Since Heritage of Edina is located in Hennepin County, it means the Hennepin County positivity rate must be less than 10% of its population
- There is a staff or resident that has newly tested positive for COVID-19
- A person cannot visit if they've been in contact within the past 14 days of a COVID-19 positive person

The rules for indoor visitation are as follows:

- Visitors must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before each visit. If any symptoms, the visit must be cancelled.
- Visitor must perform hand hygiene before each visit and throughout if contact with their mask or the resident. (The resident should also be performing hand hygiene visitor may need to assist the resident)
- Visitor and resident must wear a face mask throughout each visit (if resident can tolerate mask).
- Visitor must socially distance from all staff and all residents.
- Visitor movement inside the facility will be limited. Visitors should not walk around different halls of facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room and leave directly after visit.
- Visitor and resident are to socially distance. It is acknowledged that there is no substitute for physical contact such as the warm embrace between a resident and their loved one. Therefore, **if the resident is fully vaccinated**, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. (Visitor may need to assist resident with hand hygiene)
- Facilities must consider the total number of visitors in the building at one time as the core principles of infection prevention must be followed.

We are hard at work getting a policy and procedure in place to start this new visitation and we're all excited about these new guidelines. **Our goal is to start the new indoor visitation on March 25th**. Until then, please continue to use our current indoor visitation guidelines to visit a resident. Look to our website for information on current guidelines and how to schedule an appointment. Thank you all and we'll be seeing you soon!

- Heritage of Edina