


<b>Wilkinson RHCF</b>  St. Mary's Healthcare <small>Care You Can Trust</small>	<b>Policy:</b> COVID-19 Limited Resident Visitation Policy	
	<b>Section:</b>	<b>Code #</b>

<b>Approved:</b> Todd Zbytniewski NHA	<b>Effective Date:</b> 7/20
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Original:</b> 7/20
	<b>Revised :</b> 9/18/20

**I. Purpose:**


To permit resident visitation in a manner consistent with the NYSDOH guidance issued on July 10, 2020 and updated on 9/17/20 in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Wilkinson.

**II. Policy:**

The NYSDOH guidance provides specific criteria that Wilkinson must follow for limited visitation. This policy does not change the guidance previously issued relative to visitation for medically necessary or end-of-life services.

The specific criteria which is required for limited visitation is described below:

1. The region in which Wilkinson RHCF is located (Mohawk Valley Region) must be in Phase 3.
2. Wilkinson RHCF must be in full compliance with all state and federal requirements, state executive orders and guidance, state reporting requirements including COVID-19 focus surveys, HERDS and staff testing surveys, and federally required submission of COVID-19 data to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
3. Wilkinson must develop protocols to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative, and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to deal with COVID-positive residents and nonpositive residents. In order to effectuate this policy, Wilkinson will make efforts to transfer residents within the facility or to another healthcare facility.
4. Wilkinson must complete the NY Forward Safety Plan and submit a copy of the completed plan to covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov. Wilkinson must retain a copy of the plan at the facility where it is easily accessible and immediately available upon request of the Department of Health or local health department. Any changes to the plan must be immediately communicated to the DOH.
5. Wilkinson cannot have staffing shortages as evidenced by the facility's staffing plan and as reported by the facility through submissions to the National Health Safety Network (NHSN).
6. The absence of any new onset of COVID-19 among staff or residents for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days, as reported to the NYS Department of Health and to the NHSN.

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7. The facility must have access to adequate testing as well as a testing plan that ensures all consenting nursing home residents have received a single baseline COVID-19 test. In addition, the facility must have the capability to test or to arrange for testing of all residents upon identification of any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If a staff member tests positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the NH must have the capacity to continue re-testing all nursing home residents until all residents test negative.
8. The facility must have an executed and operationalized arrangement with a laboratory to process SARS-CoV-2 virus tests. As recommended by CMS, the test used must be able to detect SARSCoV-2 virus (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR)) with greater than 95 percent sensitivity, greater than 90 percent specificity, with results obtained and rapidly reported to the facility.
9. The facility must adhere to written screening protocols for all staff during each shift, each resident daily, and all persons entering the facility or grounds of the nursing home, including visitors. Resident monitoring must include daily symptom checks, vital signs, and pulse oximetry
10. A copy of the facilities visitation plan must be posted on their website and communicated via email to provide visitors with clear guidelines for visiting and to announce if and when visitation is paused due to any newly diagnosed case of COVID-19 among staff or residents.

**III. Procedure:**


1. Visitation will occur in an outside area within Blase Park, weather permitting. If weather not permitting, visitation will occur in the Adult Day Care area at Wilkinson which is located on the lobby level of Wilkinson, **with no more than ten individuals who are appropriately socially distanced.**

Visiting hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am-11:45 am, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, by appointment only.

2. Please contact Donna Panaro to schedule a visit. She may be reached by email or telephone;

[donna.rougeux@ascension.org](mailto:donna.rougeux@ascension.org) or 518-332-8421

3. Wilkinson will ensure limited visitation for family members, loved ones, representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program (LTCOP), and resident advocacy organizations under the following conditions:
  - a. Staff will be present to allow for help with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visit using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

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b. Wilkinson will post signage in the designated visitation areas regarding facemask utilization and proper hand hygiene. Applicable floor markings will be in place to cue social distancing delineations. Visitation stations will be set up to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines.

c. **At the time of the visit, the visitor must present a verified negative COVID test result within the last 7 days from their scheduled appointment. Visitation will not be granted if lab test results are not presented to the screener.**

d. Visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to resident access and visitation will be refused if the individual(s) exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or does not pass the screening questions. Screening shall consist of both temperature checks and asking screening questions to assess potential exposure to COVID-19 which shall include questions regarding international travel or travel to other states designated under the Commissioner’s travel advisory. The facility will maintain screening questions asked onsite and make them available upon the Department of Health’s request.


e. Documentation of screening will be maintained onsite in an electronic format and available upon the Department of Health’s request for purposes of inspection and potential contact tracing. Documentation must include the following for each visitor to the nursing home:

- Date and time of visit
- First and last name of the visitor;
- Physical (street) address of the visitor;
- Daytime and evening telephone number;
- Verification of negative COVID test within the prior seven days
- Resident to be visited
- Email address, if available;
- A notation indicating the individual cleared the screening (both temperature and questions) that does not include any individual temperatures or other individual specific information.

f. Wilkinson will ensure that adequate PPE is made available to ensure residents wear a facemask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth during visitation, if medically tolerated.

g. Visitors must wear a face mask or face covering which covers both the nose and mouth at all times while in designated visitation areas. Wilkinson will have an adequate supply of masks on hand for visitors. and will make them available to visitors who lack an acceptable face covering.

h. Visitors must maintain social distancing at a minimum of 6 feet from the resident.

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- i. Wilkinson will provide alcohol-based hand rub, consisting of at least 60 percent (60%) alcohol, to the residents and visitors. Visitors will be instructed to use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit.
- j. The number of visitors to the nursing home **must not exceed ten percent (10%)** of the resident census at any given time and only two visitors will be allowed per resident at any one time.
- k. Visitors under the age of 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.
- l. COVID-19 positive residents, residents with COVID-19 signs or symptoms, and residents in a 14-day quarantine or observation period are not eligible for visits.
- m. Wilkinson will provide a visitation fact sheet outlining expectations including appropriate hand hygiene and face coverings for visitation. The fact sheet will be provided upon initial screening to all visitors.
- n. Wilkinson will communicate visitation policies in order to comply with this requirement and schedule such visits.

If any visitor fails to adhere to the protocol, he/she/they will be prohibited from visiting for the duration of the COVID-19 state declared public health emergency.

#### **IV. References**

July 10, 2020 - New York State Department of Health Nursing Home Advisory: Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation.

September 17, 2020-New York State Department of Health Nursing Home Advisory: Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation.