


<b>Policy:</b> Residents Going Out into Community	
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<b>SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>REVIEWED:</b>

## BACKGROUND

The global Covid-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many people, including our nursing home residents. Physical separation from family and other loved ones has taken a physical and emotional toll on residents and their loved ones. Some residents feel socially isolated, leading to increased risk for depression, anxiety, and other expressions of distress. Residents living with cognitive impairment or other disabilities may find the restrictions brought on by the pandemic confusing and/or upsetting.

## POLICY

This facility understands that nursing home residents derive value from the physical, emotional, and spiritual support they receive from family and friends. In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, this facility will support out on pass outings/visits for residents while ensuring safety and adherence to infection prevention strategies to minimize any potential spread of infection. Outings/visits may be halted at any time with direction of Medical Director should there be an outbreak within facility or increase of percentage over 5% of COVID cases in community.

## PROCEDURE

1. The facility will provide education to residents, families, and others, as applicable, to follow all recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices – wearing a mask, social/physical distancing, and hand hygiene – to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
2. Families/healthcare representatives will be provided with education to report to the facility if they or anyone the resident has come into close contact with while out on pass have developed symptoms consistent with Covid-19 or have had a Covid-positive test within 48hours of being with the resident.
3. For residents who have been out of facility for <24 hours (e.g., medical appointments, dialysis, community outings with family or friends):
  - Resident will be placed in their room on the Unit on which they live, **if** they have not had any close contact (within 6ft for >15 consecutive minutes, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask) with someone with Covid-19 infection
  - No testing required (facility may choose to perform point-of-care test upon return)
  - Resident will be assessed for signs/symptoms consistent with Covid-19 infection - temp  $\geq 99^{\circ}\text{F}$ , chills, body aches, cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, poor oxygenation, nausea, diarrhea, loss of taste, loss of smell, daily temperature and pulse oximetry checks.
4. Residents who leave the facility for >24 hours will be managed in general as New and Re-admissions:

- Place on quarantine, initiate contact and droplet precautions, and monitor for signs/symptoms consistent with Covid-19 for 14 days ( this will apply to unvaccinated residents, or those residents who do not meet the criteria of fully vaccinated as per CDC/DOH guidelines.
    - **Exceptions** include residents within 3 months of a SARS-CoV-2 infection or fully vaccinated residents (CDC 3/29/2021)
      - Quarantine is no longer recommended for residents who are fully vaccinated or have recovered from Covid-19 infection within 3 months **AND** have **not** had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days (CDC 3/10/2021).
  - Residents in quarantine will be placed in a single room, to the extent possible
    - If a single room is unavailable, resident will remain in their current location
  - Unit staff will utilize full PPEs (face mask; gown; eye protection; gloves)
  - Residents can be transferred out of quarantine x14 days if they remain asymptomatic
    - Quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring.
5. A risk assessment to determine Covid-19 exposure will be done to determine appropriate room/unit placement upon return to facility.

## **REFERENCE(S)**

CDC (12/2/2020). Science Brief: Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

NYSDOH (3/25/2021). Health Advisory: Revised Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation. [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated\\_nursing\\_home\\_visitation\\_guidance.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/updated_nursing_home_visitation_guidance.pdf)

CDC (3/29/2021). Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

**EFFECTIVE:** 4/8/2021

**REVISED:** 4/15/2021, 6/23/2021