



November 18, 2021

Dear FutureCare Family:

It has been wonderful to see everyone at the facility. We are looking forward to seeing more of you during the upcoming holiday season! As hopeful as we are to return to normal, we still need to be **safe, smart, and thoughtful** about our visits to keep our residents and staff safe.

At FutureCare, we are proud to report we have high staff vaccination rates among our team members and are working closely with those few remaining unvaccinated team members to ensure we comply with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements related to staff vaccinations.

Planning Your Visit

CMS recently updated the guidance around nursing home visitation. Visits no longer need to be scheduled, nor are there restrictions on when visits may occur, but we still have some safety recommendations and requirements regarding masking and physically distancing while visiting with a resident. ***However, if you are planning a visit, please call the facility before doing so, because the facility may be experiencing health department restrictions. Additionally, in order to minimize delays, please call ahead of the visit if more than 2 visitors are planned, to allow arrangements to be made to safely accommodate the visit.***

Visitors are not required to be vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 prior to their visit. However, ***visitors who decline to disclose their vaccination status will be required to wear a face mask at all times.*** Unvaccinated or immunocompromised visitors are at a greater risk of becoming infected themselves or transmitting to others the COVID-19 virus during their visit. This puts the unvaccinated or immunocompromised visitor at a greater risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus themselves as well as their loved one becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus.

Outdoor visitation is still recommended! These visits will be offered if appropriate and if the weather is permitting.

Most Restricted Circumstances:

Visiting residents on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or in quarantine is not recommended due to the possible exposure of the visitor to COVID-19. However, if visitation does occur, physical distancing should occur and both the resident and the visitor should wear a well-fitted mask, as well as any other personal protective equipment as directed by staff during the visit.

If the COVID-19 transmission rate is substantial or high for a facility's community, regardless of vaccination status, all visitors and the resident should wear a face mask and physically distance during the visit.

Moderately Restricted Circumstances:

If the COVID-19 transmission rate is moderate or low, but the resident is unvaccinated or if vaccinated but immunocompromised, the resident and visitor should wear face masks and physically distance. Unvaccinated or vaccinated residents who are immunocompromised are at a higher risk of suffering serious illness and/or death if infected with COVID-19.

Least Restricted Circumstances:

If the COVID-19 transmission rate is moderate or low, and the resident and visitors are fully vaccinated -- while face masks and physically distancing are always preferred -- masks may be removed and the resident may choose to have physical contact with visitors.

Be Safe

All visitors -- regardless of vaccination status or the purpose of the visit -- are required to follow the Facility's Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention, which include but are not limited to these guidelines:

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days or have symptoms of COVID-19, you may not enter the facility.
- All visitors will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entering the facility.
- All visitors must perform hand hygiene as directed by the facility staff and instructional signage.
- All visitors must wear a face mask and physically distance in all communal areas and around other residents and facility staff.
- All visitors must wear personal protective equipment as directed by facility staff and instructional signage.
- All visitors must follow directional signage, including remaining in designated visiting areas if the resident's room is not available due to other considerations.
- The number of visitors permitted will be determined by the ability of the facility to ensure adequate physical distancing is occurring for all residents and staff.

Be Aware

Visitors who do not wear a face mask or do not physically distance from unvaccinated or immunocompromised residents during their visit may be placing themselves and/or their loved one at a greater risk of serious illness and/or death from a COVID-19 infection.

Need to get vaccinated?

If you or your loved one is not vaccinated, please contact us immediately for assistance with getting vaccinated. We strongly encourage everyone to get the vaccine. You can speak to anyone on staff or visit www.COVIDvax.maryland.gov to learn more about Maryland's COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations. Being vaccinated for COVID-19 is the greatest defense our residents have against serious illness and/or death from the virus.

After Your Visit

If you experience a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days after your visit, please contact the facility's Infection Preventionist. If you may have been exposed to COVID-19 during your visit, you should self-quarantine and report fever, cough, sore throat, or any other COVID-19 symptoms to your health care provider for at least 14 days following your visit.

Have more questions?

Contact us. We're here to keep you stay educated, safe and informed of all the latest data as it becomes available.

Thank you for caring for our residents and each other by staying safe and vigilant.

Stay well!

Executive Director, FutureCare