

Visitation – Infection Control

Infection Control Manual

Purpose

To provide guidelines for visitors in an effort to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.

Policy

The Facility may discourage, limit, or restrict visitation if the visitor is symptomatic of a communicable disease. The Facility will also take steps to make visitors aware of risk of exposure to a communicable while visiting the Facility.

Definitions:

Discouraging means that the facility allows normal visitation practices (except for those individuals meeting the restricted criteria), however the facility advises individuals to defer visitation until further notice (through signage, calls, etc.).

Limiting means the individual should not be allowed to come into the facility, except for certain situations, such as end-of-life situations or when a visitor is essential for the resident's emotional well-being and care.

Restricting means the individual should not be allowed in the facility at all, until they no longer meet the criteria above.

Procedure

- I. The Administrator, in conjunction with the Medical Director and Infection Preventionist, will determine whether to discourage, limit or restrict Facility visitation during public health emergencies, whether they originate in the Facility or in the community.
 - A. If the Administrator decides to restrict visitation in relation to a public health emergency, the Administrator will apply for a waiver through the Program Flex process using Form 5000A.
- II. Visitors are discouraged at all times from visiting when they have potentially contagious infections (for example, upper respiratory infection (URI), influenza, gastroenteritis, or unexplained rashes).
 - A. The Facility will post a notice to visitors related to limitations or restrictions on visitation at each entrance.
- III. Visitors who are symptomatic of communicable diseases may be denied visitation at the discretion of the Charge Nurse, or designee, until appropriate evaluation and treatment of the visitor has been established.
 - A. The Facility will implement screening procedures appropriate to the circumstances of the public health emergency.
 - B. The Facility will use guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other government agencies when determining appropriate screening criteria and methods.
 - C. Visitors will complete a questionnaire and the designated Facility staff member will document the screening and update the visitor log for each visitor.
- IV. During public health emergencies, the Facility will assess stock of necessary infection control supplies to ensure adequacy.



Visitation – Infection Control

Infection Control Manual

- A. If there is a shortage of supplies, the Administrator, or designee, will document all reasonable steps taken for alternate procurement.
- V. The Facility will consider the implementation of additional infection control practices during public health emergencies including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. Requiring visitors to wash their hands at the entrance of the Facility;
 - B. Increasing the availability of hand sanitizing stations;
 - C. Limiting visitor access to specific rooms near the entrance to limit movement within the Facility;
 - D. Enabling methods for remote communication in lieu of in-person visitation; and
 - E. Providing visitors with personal-protective equipment (PPE), if supplies permit doing so.
- VI. The Facility will post IC – 24 – Form A – Notice to Visitors outside the door to a resident’s room when a resident has a contagious infection.
- VII. Visitors must follow instructions from the Charge Nurse on duty regarding Facility infection control practices and visitation restrictions.
- VIII. Violations of these policies are to be reported to the Administrator.

References

Sources:

42 C.F.R. § 483.65(b). 22 CAL. CODE REGS. §§ 72321(b), 72523(c)(3).

Forms:

IC – 24 – Form A – Notice to Visitors

Employee(s):

Administrator, Medical Director, Nursing Staff

Version No. 2.0

Date Revised: March 12, 2020

