



*The Shores and The Bluffs Skilled Nursing*

General Visitation Protocols

**This policy applies to general visitation protocols, in the absence of a public health emergency. Please see *Personal Caregiving Visitors* policy for visitation protocols in the event of a public health emergency**

Updated: March 29, 2021 April 23, 2021, June 14, 2021, July 9, 2021, November 16, 2021

# Visitation Protocols

## General Visitation Protocols

- Visitation appointments are not required.
- Visitors are permitted at any time, however we recommend that you do not visit during mealtimes, as visitors are not permitted in the communal dining room. If the member is eating in his/her room, you may visit during this time.
- Residents may receive visitors for their desired length of time.
- There is no limit on the number of visitors at one time, however, large gatherings, parties or events where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and social distancing cannot be maintained are not permitted.
- Visitors must limit movement throughout the nursing home and should go directly to the resident's room or the designated visitation location.
- Visitors must wear a mask while in common areas and when walking throughout the building. Masks are strongly encouraged during the visit.

## Infection Control Protocols

- All visitors must adhere to the following core principles and best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19:
  - Screening of all who enter the Health Center (see *Screening* section)
  - Hand hygiene (use of alcohol based hand rub is preferred)
  - Use of face coverings or masks in accordance with CDC guidance and New York State law
  - Social distancing of at least six feet between persons
  - Cleaning and disinfecting of high-frequency touch surfaces and dedicated visitation areas
  - Visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the nursing home
- If a visitor is unable to adhere to the core principles listed above, they should not be permitted to visit and **must be asked to leave**.
- If a resident cannot tolerate a face mask, they can be offered a face shield.

## Screening

- All visitors must screen in prior to the visit.
- Self-screening stations are located in the Shores lobby and the Main Health Center lobby.

- Visitors must take their temperature and fill out a screening questionnaire. If the visitor is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, has a temperature greater than 99.5, or has been exposed to COVID-19, they are not permitted to visit.
- Visitors must wear a sticker stating they have been screened. Staff members should check to ensure that visitors are wearing this sticker.

## **Visitation Locations**

- Outdoor visitation is preferred when the resident and visitor are not fully vaccinated. Outdoor visits can take place in the courtyard/garden or visitors can choose to take a walk around campus. When conducting outdoor visitation, all applicable infection control practices should be adhered to.
- Visitation may take place in a resident's rooms. If the resident has a roommate and the roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised, the visit should not take place in the room while the roommate is there.
- If a visitor is unable to, or chooses not to visit in the resident's room, the following alternate locations are available: The Shores Parlor Room, The Bluffs Living Room, Outdoors

## **Testing**

- When the transmission rate in the county is substantial or high, visitors are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 test prior to their visit
- Peconic Landing can provide a COVID-19 test to visitors if requested
- Visitors cannot be required to be tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation.

## **Suspension of Visitation Due to an Outbreak**

- While it is safer for visitors not to enter the nursing home during an outbreak, visitors must still be allowed in the facility.
- During an outbreak, all visitors must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

## **Residents on Quarantine**

- While not recommended, visitors who are on transmission based precautions can still have visitors. All parties (resident, visitor) must be educated on the risks associated with a visit.

## **Additional Provisions**

- Peconic Landing will provide representatives of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman with immediate access to any resident.

- Peconic Landing will allow immediate access to a resident by any representative of the protection and advocacy systems, as established under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000
- Peconic Landing will comply with all federal disability rights laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Federal and State surveyors will be permitted entry into the nursing home, regardless of vaccination status, unless they exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon screening
- EMS personnel do not need to be screened so they can attend to emergencies without delay
- Healthcare workers who are not employees of Peconic Landing but provide direct care to the residents are permitted to enter, as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to exposure to COVID-19, or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19 upon screening. These providers include:
  - Hospice
  - EMS
  - Dialysis technicians
  - Laboratory technicians
  - Radiology technicians
  - Companions/home health aides
  - Clergy
- Peconic Landing will notify residents and resident representatives of any changes to visitation policies