

# PICKERING MANOR

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POLICY AND PROCEDURES  
Revised May 24, 2022

## **Policy:** Pickering Manor's Visitation Policy

**Purpose:** It is the policy of Pickering Manor to always allow visits during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency for all residents while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention to reduce the potential for transmission and in accordance with 42 CFR §483.80(h). The core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention include:

- Screening of all individuals who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs and symptoms), and denial of entry of those with symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.
- Hand Hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering both mouth and nose)
- Social Distancing at least six feet between persons
- Instructional signs throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face coverings or masks, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing as required at 42 CFR §483.80(h). (Ref: QSO-20-38-NH 09/21/2021)

## **Definitions:**

**“Compassionate Care Visits”:** Visits for a resident whose health has sharply declined or is experiencing a significant change in circumstances.

**“End of Life Visits”:** Visit for actively dying residents and are 24/7 in residents' room, two people at one time.

**“up to date”:** Refers to a person who has had two vaccines of Pfizer or Moderna and a booster or one J&J and booster per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.

**“Outbreak”:** When a new nursing home onset of COVID-19 occurs (i.e. a new COVID-19 case among residents or staff)

**“Outbreak testing”:** Testing of all residents and staff when a new positive COVID-19 result is identified. This testing continues until the facility achieves fourteen (14) days with no new positive test results of residents or staff. **\*\*Outbreak testing is not triggered for a positive staff test result when the staff member has not been in the building during the infectious period (2 days prior to onset of symptoms **or** if asymptomatic, 2 days prior to the positive test)**

**Procedure:**

- Visits will be permitted during the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to the individual needs of each resident considering each residents’ physical, mental and psychosocial well-being, and support for their quality of life.
- Compassionate Care visits required under federal disability rights law are always available regardless of the resident’s vaccination status, the county’s COVID-19 positivity rate/Transmission rate or outbreak status. Compassionate Care visits go into effect during outbreaks/lockdowns.
- Outdoor visits are the preferred method of visits and are always available, weather permitting. All outdoor visits will be limited to 60 minutes each and up to 3-4 people as outdoors space allows at each visit. Food/snacks are allowed.
- Indoor visits are always available for all residents provided Pickering Manor meets the individual needs of the resident(s) and family member(s) while maintaining the COVID-19 core principles of infection prevention. Indoor visit will be 60 minutes each in designated spaces and may have 2 visitors at one time.
- Pickering Manor’s visiting hours are from **10 am till 8 pm** daily **and prefer not during resident’s mealtimes unless prior arrangements are made** 7 days a week.
- Meals or special events with a resident must be pre-arranged/scheduled and be in residents’ room and for larger visits in designated areas. Please call facility prior to the date of special event to reserve the space.
- The Administrator is responsible for the development and implementation of the home’s specific visitation plan that meets the needs of the residents, maintains the COVID-19 core principles of infection prevention, and does not cause disruption to the safe operation of the home.
- Visitors will be informed of the designated entrance/exit, visitor location area and routes of travel through the home to ensure safety and compliance with visitation protocols.
- Masks will be provided at the designated visitor entrance area if someone doesn’t have one. All visitors must wear masks prior to entering Pickering Manor regardless of vaccination status and continuously during the visit making sure that the mask always covers both the nose and mouth.

- Visitors will be instructed to hand sanitize using the alcohol-based hand sanitizer rub at the designated visitor entrance and at the visitor area upon completion of the visit.
- Visitors will complete the screening and questionnaire process in accordance with Pickering Manor's established protocols. Visitors who present with symptoms will not be permitted entry to the facility.
- Visitors will sign in and out with the receptionist.
- All visitors will be escorted to the visitation area and then back out of visitation area.
- Visitors should not visit in common areas such as the living room, or dining rooms.
- Visitors may conduct visits in designated visiting areas and in resident's room when possible. For situations where the health status prevents a resident from leaving the room, or if the roommate is not up to date with vaccinations, arrangement will be made to accommodate the visit.
- Visitors may not co-mingle with other residents or walk around facility hallways during their visits.
- Visitors must use call bell for assistance in room or having questions for staff.
- Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation.
- **Indoor Visitation** should always be allowed for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission (note: compassionate care visits should be always permitted). These scenarios include limiting indoor visitation for:
  1. Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is >10 % and < 70% of facilities residents are vaccinated.
  2. Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the 2 criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions.
  3. Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.
- **When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, a facility should immediately begin outbreak testing in accordance with CMS QSO 20-38-NH REVISED and CDC guideline.**
- **While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will still be allowed in the facility. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the**

**resident's room unless they are shared, and they will occur in designated areas.**

- The Pickering Manor Personal Care should refer to CMS guidance and Pickering Manor's policy related to COVID-19 testing.
  - **Testing and vaccination: While not required, we encourage facilities in counties with substantial or high levels of community transmission to offer testing to visitors, if feasible. If facilities do not offer testing, they should encourage visitors to be tested on their own before coming to the facility (e.g., within 2-3 days prior).**
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- Residents who are fully vaccinated can have close contact with their visitors (including touch) provided they wear a well-fitting face mask and perform hand-hygiene before and after the visit.
  - The home will provide instructional signage throughout the building to assist with visitor education regarding proper PPE protocols, designated screening or visitor registration areas, and other relevant visitor information.
  - Pickering Manor will make available packets of educational information to visitors. This packet will include information on the Pickering Manor's infection control practices, use of PPE, Visitor Acknowledgement and Consent and other building specific information.
  - Copies of Pickering Manor's visitation and infection policy will be given at time of admission to POA.
  - Pickering Manor's administrative team will establish criteria for limits on the number of visitors permitted at one time for each resident and in the building at any given time based on the individual needs of the resident, the building's space, and ability to manage the safety of the visits.
    - Children will be permitted to visit provided the adult visitor is able to manage the child to ensure adherence to the COVID-19 core principles of infection prevention and the child will be counted in the number of visitors allowed at any given time for a resident to continuously maintain adherence to the COVID-19 core principles of infection. to continuously maintain adherence to the COVID-19 core principles of infection prevention.
  - Children over the age of two (2) years old must consistently be able to wear a mask during the entire visit.
  - Pickering Manor staff and residents are tested in accordance with CDC and PA DOH guidance established by the county COVID-19 positivity rating.
  - Residents will be permitted privacy during all visits; however, visits will be observed routinely to ensure that visitors are complying with the established policies and procedures.
  - Pickering frequently cleans and disinfects all common areas including designated visitation areas.

- Hospice/End of Life/Comfort care:
  - Residents on Hospice are allowed additional daily visits dependent on their situations.
  - Actively dying residents' visits may be ongoing for the immediate family members. No more than 2 visitors at a time if possible, when there is a roommate. Spouses takes precedence to other family members. Other family members will need to wait outside of building or in front lobby if able to accommodate until it's their turn.
  - Family will need to call the facility ahead of the visits if visiting outside of normal visiting hours.
  - Staff will screen family and provide them with PPE.
  - Staff will escort family to resident room and provide family with privacy.
  - Staff will check in with family members to ensure their needs are being met.
  - Staff will escort family back out of family at the end of their visit.
  - Communicate with nursing by using the call bell system to eliminate unnecessary movement through out facility hallways during your visits.
- Partners/Vendors:
  - Partners and vendors will receive Pickering Manor's policy for visitation and must adhere.
  - All partners and vendors must call in advance and schedule all visits.
  - Partners and vendors who show up without scheduled appointments will be asked to leave and call for appointment.
  - Upon entering building, they will be Covid 19 screened, and temperature checked. They will sign their name and enter time in and out of facility and receive the colored dot of the day.
  - The receptionist will contact the director with whom the visit is scheduled. The director will meet vendor and escort them to meeting place/unit.
  - They will not be allowed to walk anywhere through out building unless the business for which they are onsite requires.
  - All partners and vendors will be required to wear the appropriate PPE and bring/wear the masks at all times in the facility.
- Non-medical Outings:
  1. Resident's family members may choose to take them out for non-medical outing/visits (examples: shopping/stores, restaurants, Parks, picnic/party, family home). These Non-medical outings/visits will be allowed however some scenarios may need to assess on a case-by-case basis.

- a. The extent to which infection prevention and control precautions (including universal masking, hand hygiene, and physical distancing) are achieved based on the circumstances of the outing
  - b. **Whether the resident is fully up to date with vaccinations.**
  - c. The resident's level of vulnerability due to any chronic or immunocompromised conditions; and
  - d. Duration of the outing, including whether it includes an overnight stay.
2. If the outing poses a high risk based on several factors (below), testing may be appropriate. Ideally, wait at **least 2-3 days** following the outing to **perform testing**. Residents with this type of high-risk outing do not need to be placed under transmission-based precautions unless exposure is known or highly suspected<sup>1</sup>. Factors of a high-risk outing include:
- a. Substantial community spread in the area(s) visited or home county ( $\geq 10\%$  county positivity rate or incident rate  $\geq 100/100,000$  incidence) **AND**
  - b. A gathering of more than 10 people **AND**
  - c. Failure of consistent universal masking for the duration of the outing **OR**
  - d. Failure of physical distancing from resident (for example, hugging or riding in a vehicle with persons not wearing face coverings or masks).

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