

**The Shepherd's Center**  
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11/15/2021

**New Regulations on Visitations**

Hello Families and Friends

It has finally happened. **WE ARE OPENING THE DOORS!!** I could make this short by stating “doors are opened” but I do want to share with you the CMS regulations. On November 12, 2021 @ approx. 930pm new regulations came out, YAY!!

Here is the breakdown – I think you all will be very pleased

**Indoor Visits**

“Facilities must allow indoor visitations at all times and for all residents as permitted under the regulations. Facilities can NO longer limit the frequency or length of visits for residents, number of visitors, or require scheduling”.

“Although there is no limit on the number of visitors at one time, we still need to conduct in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase the risk to other residents”.

Facilities should avoid large gatherings (e.g. parties, events) where large number of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained or poor airflow.

Families/Friends before visiting needs to be checked in by a TSC employee. The check in process is

Take temperature

Ask questions

Be asked to wash hands or sanitize hands in front of us

Wear mask always in the facility – When going to and leaving residents

If the resident and ALL their visitors are fully vaccinated, they may choose not to wear face mask and to have physical contact in their rooms

Even though it is not recommended – residents who are on quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident’s room and resident visitors should wear a mask as well as resident, if able

Facilities ARE NOT required to provide PPE (personal protective equipment) for visitors

Note: If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (touch) with their visitors. Unvaccinated residents may also choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs. Residents, residents’ representatives, and visitors will be educated on the risk of physical contact prior to the visit

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors must still be allowed in the facility. Visitors will be made aware upon arrival for visit. If resident and visitor still want to visit regardless of vaccination, they should keep mask on during the entire visit, along with distancing and stay in residents’ room

### **Visitor Testing & Vaccination**

Do encourage visitors to get tested on their own 2-3 days before visit

Facilities may NOW ask about a visitor’s vaccination status. However, visitors are not required to be tested or show proof of such as a condition of visitation

If the visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status, visitor should always wear a face mask.

### **Communal Activities, Dining, & Resident Outings**

Facilities must permit residents to leave the facility as they choose. Staff should remind the resident and the individual accompanying the resident to follow all recommended infection prevention practices

Upon residents return – Screen

If resident or individual accompanying resident comes back and reports possible exposure. The resident will be tested for COVID-19 and monitor for signs and symptoms. They will be placed in quarantine if resident has not been fully vaccinated

If resident develop signs/symptoms after outing, test the resident for COVID-19 and place resident on transmission-based precautions (TBP) regardless of vaccination status

Nursing home may also opt to test unvaccinated residents without signs/symptoms if they leave the nursing home frequently or for prolonged length of time, such as over 24 hours

I want to take this time to also, Thank you, to all of you that were patient and understanding throughout this difficult process. I do understand how hard and heart-breaking it has been, not only on you but the residents and staff, as well. So, I am soo glad to be able to write **THIS** letter

**WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!!!**

Can't wait to be able to see you all again

Once again Thank you for all your support. If there is anything that TSC or myself can do for you, please let me know.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tabitha Rincon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Tabitha Rincon, Administrator".

Tabitha Rincon, Administrator