

## **Friends Home Visitation Policy**

### **October 30, 2020**

As we enter the 8<sup>th</sup> month of this deadly virus and with the inevitable weather changes the Friends Home in Kennett has implemented an Indoor Visitation Policy effective November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Outdoor visitation is still the safest and preferred method of visiting our residents, but as the weather declines, we do want to have a procedure in place to allow for continued interaction between our residents and their friends and family. Unfortunately, the indoor visits will need to be done in a controlled setting and with specific procedures.

Indoor visitation will be allowed to occur as long as the Friends Home has been 14 straight days in Green, and we are not currently conducting testing for a possible outbreak. This visitation policy is also sensitive to the Chester County positivity rate. I will be monitoring this rate weekly on the COVID-19 Nursing Home Data website. If Chester County's positivity rate is greater than 10% the Friends Home will not be allowing indoor visitation except in extenuating circumstances. If the positivity rate is between 5% and 10%, we will be requiring all visitors to get tested on their own within 2-3 days of the scheduled visit. The Friends Home will activate the communication system if the county productivity rate is above 5% with details concerning any changes to the visitation policy.

The following policies and procedures have been put in place for the safety of our residents, staff, and visitors. They have been developed following the Department of Health's, Department of Human Services' and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' guidelines. These policies are subject to change as we progress throughout this process. All visitors must adhere to the procedures in place at the time of their visit.

1. Visits must be scheduled using the sign-up genius link provided.  
Sign up link for Linden Hall  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BABA2DA4FDC16-visitation3>  
Sign up link for Friends Home (Personal Care)  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BABA2DA4FDC16-visitation2>  
Specifics on the policy to be provided as soon as available
2. Linden Hall visit slots are scheduled from 1:30pm-2:30pm daily and Friends Home visit slots are scheduled from 2:30pm-3:30pm daily
3. The visitation room for Linden Hall is the television room. The Friends Home visitation room is the parlor
4. Linden Hall visitors will enter the Linden Street entrance at the back of the building. Friends Home visitors will enter via the State Street entrance and be guided to the parlor entrance.
5. All visitors must wait in their vehicle until the start time of their visit slot. We cannot safely accommodate multiply visitors in these designated areas.
6. We do not have specified visitor restrooms: therefore, we are asking all visitors to plan accordingly.
7. All visitors will be screened by a FH or LH employee and if there are any concerns of possible illness or exposure the visit will be rescheduled.

8. The actual physical visit will last 15 minutes, and all participants must wear a mask and gloves while adhering to the social distancing guidelines of 6 feet between visitors and residents
9. We can allow only 2 visitors per resident. All children must be accompanied by an adult and be able to follow all required procedures.
10. Visitors will only be able to communicate with the staff member facilitating the visit. Any interaction with nursing or care staff will need to be conducted via telephone conversations at a different time
11. Eating will not be allowed during these visits, but items can be given to the staff supervisor at the time of the visit and we will make sure they are taken to the resident's room.
12. We will be sanitizing the visitation areas before and after each visit.
13. Each resident will be granted one visit per week. If there are available slots, additional visits will be allowed. Secondary visitors must wait until 24 hours prior to the requested additional time slot to sign up
14. Visitors must sign up before 7 am on day of expected visit so staff can plan accordingly.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation as we deal with this pandemic. We all look forward to the day when our day to day operations are not ruled by the COVID virus. Until then The Friends Home in Kennett will continue to do all we can to keep our residents and staff safe and healthy, while at the same time, counting our blessings and seeing the joy in what we can.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Christine McDonald

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