**Notice to Residents, Staff, and Visitors**

Effective November 17, 2021 visitation is allowed for all residents, regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated visitors will also be allowed to visit subject to adherence with COVID-19 Infection Prevention practices as mentioned throughout this memo.

Residents may deny or withdraw consent for a visit at any time. Therefore, if a visitor, resident, or their representative is aware of the risks associated with visitation, and the visit occurs in a manner that does not place other residents at risk (e.g., in the resident’s room), the resident must be allowed to receive visitors as he/she chooses.

**Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility.** We will screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions. Visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents. We still have a duty to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained during peak times of visitation (e.g., lunch time, after business hours, etc.). Also, we should avoid large gatherings (e.g., parties, events) where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained. During indoor visitation, facilities should limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident’s room or designated visitation area.

If the nursing home’s parish COVID-19 community level of transmission is substantial to high, all visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face coverings or masks and physically distance at all times and all residents should wear face masks during visits and when outside of his/her room. In areas of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if the resident is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated. The visitor is still required to wear a mask if the resident is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated. **Visitors must wear face coverings or masks when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.**

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors must still be allowed in the facility. Visitors should 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.

**In summary, visits no longer require scheduling. Residents can allow visits from unvaccinated visitors. Masks are still encouraged in all cases. Masks are required when coming in contact with other residents or healthcare personnel and while moving from one place to another within the building. Limiting movement in and around the facility is best practice. Let’s all do our best to prevent future outbreaks and continue to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention!**