

12/21/21

MEMO

COVID-19 Updates Re: Independent Living Visitation

With the approaching holidays, there has been a strong desire within Independent Living to increase visitation at Bayview. Given Bayview's current track record for mitigating the risk of exposure, the Leadership Team has decided to **temporarily loosen visitation restrictions between now and January 5th, 2022 (12/21/22 – 01/05/22)**. Predictably, while the King County rate of infection continues to climb after Thanksgiving, and the new "omicron" variant takes hold across the nation; this certainly poses a higher risk for exposure within Bayview. However, we have a sound test-based strategy, and we are all experts in the core principles of infection control. As long as we keep vigilant with these practices, Bayview suggests the following, temporary guidance for residents in Independent Living below. Please remember, outdoor visitation is the best way to visit with family and loved ones; especially if you or any visitor is unvaccinated.

1. Test often and frequently. Testing is available twice weekly (Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30am – 3:30 pm in the Kinnear Theater) and will not be interrupted during the holiday season. Keep your peace of mind high by testing both days each week to ensure you have not been exposed and are not shedding the virus to others.
2. All visitors (including children) must wear a facemask at all times while in the facility.
3. All visitors (including children) must properly screen into the facility.
4. Please have no more than five (5) visitors, including children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren at one time. Visitors should only visit the people they are directly related to.
5. Visitors should transit directly to and from the visiting apartment only. Visitors are not allowed in public areas.
6. Visits should be limited to three (3) hours or less, each day between 12/21/21 and 01/05/22.

Guidance for the regulated areas including Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing continue to follow the Department of Social and Health Services "Safe-Start for Long Term Care Guidance". Visitation has not changed for these areas.

It is up to all of us to keep our facility free from COVID-19. Each one of us can use our best judgement to find the balance between risk and reward of visitation. Please hold each other accountable for strict adherence to the core principles of infection control and we can continue our impeccable track record of success mitigating this virus.

Sincerely,

Joel G. Smith, Health Services Administrator
ext. 3357 | 206.281.5747 | jsmith@bayviewseattle.org