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| Section: Health and Wellness | Subject: Florida - Communicable Disease Visitation Policy | Date of Issue: 4/22/2022 Last Revised: 03/07/2024 Last Reviewed: 04/24/2025 |
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Policy: The Community may permit residents to have visitors in Outdoor and/or Indoor settings in accordance with the guidelines as set forth.

Procedure:

1. Health care facilities must allow in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - a. End-of-life situations.
 - b. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 - c. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 - f. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
2. The Resident has the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The provider must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.
3. The community will publicly post their visitation policy in an easily accessible format on the home page of their website.
4. These policies shall outline hours for visitation, infection control and education policies for visitors, and additional health or safety procedures that visitors are subject to.
5. Providers are authorized to request a visitor to agree to the policy and procedures in writing. However, the policy and procedures may not be more stringent than what is required for their staff.
6. The Executive Director, Health and Wellness Director or designee is responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the policies and procedures.
7. The community may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.
8. Consensual physical contact is allowed between a resident, client or patient and the visitor.

Visitation Hours:

1. Residents may have visitors 24-hours a day unless the visitations infringe upon the rights of other residents including resident right to a peaceful environment.

Infection Control:

1. All visitors must follow community screening and infection control policies while visiting residents within the community, including handwashing and social distancing from those they are not visiting with.
2. Visitation may involve limitations including duration, number and age of visitors, days and/or hours during a day when visits will be permitted, and frequency including the number of times during a day or week visitation may occur to accommodate visitation requests, help ensure adequate staffing, and help provide a safe environment.
3. Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided as recommended by Centers for Disease Control, state, and local guidance. PPE may include but is not limited to masks, gowns, gloves, face shields, and shoe covers.