



Visitation Policy In Response to Covid-19 Marbridge Foundation

This policy is implemented secondary to the local, state, and national mandates related to COVID-19 and the risk it places on our vulnerable population. It remains a fluid policy based on variable factors, including but not limited to, continued recommendations from the local, state, and national health authorities, available personal protective equipment (PPE), and the effect on each Marbridge community. Policies reflect active Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) guidelines as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

- COVID-19 vaccination is an added layer of protection against the novel coronavirus. It DOES NOT provide IMMUNITY from COVID-19. The goal of the vaccines is to reduce the probability of hospitalization and death from COVID-19, and all evidence indicates that's exactly what they have done. But no vaccine is 100% effective, so it is possible that a vaccinated individual can still contract the COVID-19 virus. And we deal with a vulnerable population at Marbridge. As a result, our organizational practices will continue to put our residents' health and safety at the center of our decisions.
- Visitation may occur regardless of resident COVID-19 status and COVID vaccination status.
- Marbridge requires all visitors to be masked while in any building on campus including resident common areas or while interacting with residents or staff other than their dedicated resident. *We ask that you approach your time on campus as if nobody has been vaccinated to ensure that everyone continues to remain healthy and safe.*
- This policy is subject to change at any time based on mandates through HHSC and/or positivity rates throughout the greater community as well as if there is ever an outbreak on campus.

Instructions to Visitors:

All visitors are required to be screened for COVID-19 symptoms which includes obtaining a temperature check prior to entrance into any care community. Upon your **first visit on campus after receiving this Visitation Policy** (i.e., your initial visit), *all visitors* are required to be educated on the following topics: hand and respiratory hygiene, utilization of appropriate level PPE, COVID-19 symptoms, and proper social distancing. Visitors are not required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test or proof of COVID vaccination status.

All visits are held at a designated area within the community or may be held within the resident's room **IF** the resident occupies a private room or if the resident's roommate is not displaced during the visit.

The facility reserves the right to restrict all visitation and restrict access if:

- Visitors have potentially contagious infections (for example, upper respiratory infection [URI], influenza, gastroenteritis, or unexplained rashes).
- Visitors are symptomatic of communicable diseases.

- Visitors refuse or are non-compliant with the facility required PPE protocol throughout the duration of the visit. Proper PPE can be provided for you upon arrival to your care community.

Types of Visitation:

- **Essential Caregiver Visit:** personal visit between a COVID-19 negative or positive resident and an essential caregiver. Resident may have up to two essential caregivers and both may visit at one time.
- **Outdoor Visit:** personal visit between a COVID-19 negative or positive resident and a family member, caregiver, friend, volunteer, or guardian. The visit occurs at a designated area outside of the facility. Social distancing must be maintained, and visit may involve one (1) or more visitors.
- **Indoor Visit:** personal visit between a COVID-19 negative or COVID positive resident and a family member, caregiver, friend, volunteer, or guardian. The resident and visitor remain inside the facility during the visit. Visits may be limited to a designated space or may be held in a resident's private room.
- **End of Life Visit:** personal visit between a COVID-19 positive or negative resident and a family member, caregiver, friend, volunteer, or guardian. The visit may occur in the resident's room.

Steps to promote health and safety:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Follow Austin Public Health regarding school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing measures.