

November 12, 2020



Dear families,

With the holidays quickly approaching, we know many of you have plans underway and are wondering what the visitation options will look like for your loved one. Because COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on our loved ones living in long-term care facilities, the Indiana State Department of Health has issued guidance for holiday outings and we hope to provide some clarity in this letter.

First and foremost, due to their increased risk, ***the state Department of Health strongly recommends against families taking persons who reside in long-term care facilities to their homes or to gatherings for holiday events.***

Should you choose to take your loved one to a holiday outing, please note the following important details:

- For two weeks prior to the event (that would be 11/12/20 for a Thanksgiving day outing), every individual who will be present at the gathering should personally quarantine from indoor settings with people they don't live with where they cannot socially distance or wear a mask.
- On the day of the outing, all individuals entering the gathering should be screened at the door, wear a mask for the duration of the gathering except while eating, wash hands frequently and maintain a 6' social distance from each other.
- An individual should be designated to clean all high-touch surfaces throughout the gathering.
- All Health Center and Assisted Living residents who leave the facility for holiday outings will be placed in quarantine for 14 days when returning. They would be moved to an observation room, if one is available, for 14 days to make sure they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19. If an observation room is not available, ***your loved one may not be able to return to the facility until a room is available.***
- ***Prior to taking your loved one out of the facility, please contact the administrator to make sure that an observation room would be available on their return.*** We will make every effort to have appropriate accommodations for residents and/or to arrange accommodations at a sister community. ***If appropriate accommodations are not available, you may be required to keep and care for your loved one until a room is available.***

After speaking with the Administrator, if you elect to take your loved one out, you will be asked to sign a document stating that you understand these guidelines. You can find the official ISDH guidelines at this link: https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC%20holiday%20guidance%2011.6.20.pdf.

Please note that this recommendation does not apply to residents who in the last 90 days have been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19 as long as they meet the CDC criteria for discontinuing transmission-based precautions.

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We know this is a difficult time and we are here to answer your questions. We value our residents as if they were our own family and our employees have put an incredible amount of heart as well as tears into these past 8 months of working tirelessly to keep our residents safe. We know this is not easy. We will offer outdoor visits as long as the guidelines continue to allow this, and we are always happy to arrange video visits and window visits. We simply ask that you keep in mind the dangers of COVID-19 and that these holiday gatherings present a high degree of potential risk both for your loved one as well as other residents.

Many of us are facing the same decisions with our own parents and grandparents and we do not take this lightly. We are in this with you and our employees will work diligently to bring as much holiday cheer to our residents as we can.

Thank you for your support. You can reach our administrator, Shannon Poole, for questions via phone at 317-823-6841 x 3570 or email spoole@westminstervillage.com.