

Instructions for Hospice Visitors

Particularly for older individuals and those with respiratory, cardiac or multiple chronic conditions, the risks of more severe symptoms and death from COVID-19 are greater. Special steps must be taken to prevent disease transmission when considering the movement of patients, visitors and staff into and within a facility. Visitation restrictions have been put in place for the safety of all individuals at a site, including the patients, staff and essential workers, and other visitors.

Hospice care is provided to patients and their families when a person is approaching death. This can be a particularly difficult time for many families. In recognition of the additional needs expressed by patients and families, exceptions for visitation restrictions are being extended to hospice residents.

All hospices are required to follow these guidelines:

- We are restricting visitors to all hospice sites to individuals identified by the resident; this may include family members or religious leaders. Alternative means for others to communicate will be required.
- In end-of-life situations when there may be a critical need to visit a loved one:
 - Individuals who are COVID-19 positive or are awaiting results of COVID-19 testing will not be allowed to visit;
 - Others who answer yes to screening questions (but are not COVID-19 positive or awaiting COVID-19 testing) may be able to visit. In this circumstance, they will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and escorted to and from the room.
- Underage children will not be allowed to visit except with the approval of the hospice Manager as children may have COVID-19 with only very mild symptoms. Approved visits are restricted to one child at a time. The child must be escorted directly to the patient room and must be under the supervision of another adult at all times.
- Visitors are restricted to one person at a time except where an adult is accompanying an underage child.
- Because of the risks associated with community transmission of COVID-19, hospice patients are not able to leave the facility on pass though may go out on the grounds of the facility. If outside, social distancing is required.

Thank you for assisting with these guidelines to minimize the risk of infection to our residents, staff and yourselves. We deeply appreciate your understanding and cooperation under these extraordinary circumstances.