Visitors for residents of The Lighthouse, Inc. (Indoors) Established for Pandemic Crisis 2020

Effective March 23, 2021 based on requirements from MDHHS order of March 17, 2021, and CMS – QSO-20-39-NH revised 03/10/21

**Policy:** In order to facilitate visits for the residents of The Lighthouse, visitors will be allowed the opportunity to visit with the residents, in indoor locations in accordance with the MDHHS and CMS orders. The MDHHS order of 3-2-21 has been rescinded. All provisions of the CMS order are incorporated into the Lighthouse visitor policy for indoor visits.

Effective March 23, 2021 and until further notice, the following procedures will be in place for all indoor visits at The Lighthouse:

* The Lighthouse will permit indoor and outdoor visits on The Lighthouse campuses.
* Indoor visits will be conducted in Lighthouse buildings that are well ventilated and allow sufficient room for social distancing. To ensure the safety of all residents, indoor visits will not occur in the AFC homes where other residents are present.
* Home visits - Please see separate policy “Home Visits During Covid-19 Pandemic”

**Procedure:**

1. Outdoor visits are preferred and recommended due to decreased risk of transmission associated with outdoor visits. Indoor and outdoor visits on Lighthouse campuses are allowed when the residential home has had no new COVID cases originate in the facility for residents or staff within the prior 14 days, and the local health department has not determined the facility is unsafe for visits due to local community COVID conditions.
2. For outdoor visits procedures, please see policy entitled “Outdoor visits”
3. Before offering indoor visits, The Lighthouse will ensure:
* The indoor visiting area allows for 6 feet between all persons. Tables are recommended as a barrier to ensure proper distancing. Tables and chairs will be disinfected after each visit.
* The inside visiting area will be in a well ventilated area and away from any other residents.
* A staff member trained in infection control, will observe the visit to offer assistance as needed, assure compliance with safety regulations and disinfect the area after the visit is completed.
1. If any person would like to have an on campus indoor visit with a resident at The Lighthouse, they must call the resident’s home and set up an appointment to do the on campus visit. Appointments are required to ensure that we can provide adequate space for social distancing and designate an area away from all other home residents. Only one set of visitors indoor visiting location is allowed at any given time due to the need for distancing to reduce the risk of possible transmission. Visits will be allowed for up to 45 minutes, to provide time for disinfecting, and allowing other residents to have visitors can occur.

 \*Please note, only individuals who are listed as allowed to visit a resident on their approved contact sheet will be allowed to visit.

1. **The number of visitors allowed per scheduled visit is four or fewer.** If additional visitors are requested, please contact management for approval.
2. Visitors will need to wear a face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) for the duration of their visit and follow good hand hygiene. **Visitors who are unable or unwilling to follow these regulations will not be allowed to visit in person.** They will be offered continued video visit opportunities.
3. Due to CMS regulations, The Lighthouse will screen all visitors for signs and symptoms of Covid and potential exposure to covid during the previous 14 days. The Lighthouse is required to deny admission into the facility of any visitor that has symptoms, or has had exposure to Covid-19 within 14 days, regardless of the visitor’s vaccination status. Visitors will need to sign a form that states their agreement to notify The Lighthouse if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID 19 within 14 days of visiting.
4. At the time of the visit – the visitor should call the home when they arrive on campus at the designated building. Designated staff from the home will conduct a health screening of the visitor.
5. The Lighthouse will have signs posted at the entrances to the visiting areas that visitors will need to be screened for symptoms of COVID19 and for visitors with symptoms to not enter the visiting area. Signs will also be posted which encourage good hand hygiene, face coverings, and social distancing.
6. The Lighthouse will make hand sanitizer available for visitors and post educational materials on proper hand washing and sanitization.
7. The Lighthouse will ensure that there are enough staff available to assist with transporting residents to and from visits, monitoring visits and to disinfect surfaces after the visits are completed.
8. Once the visitor has been screened, they will meet with the resident at the indoor visiting area. The resident and the visitors are required to wear face masks for the duration of the visit regardless of vaccination status, due to CMS regulations. Social distancing is required by CMS guidelines and visitors are to refrain from any physical contact with residents and employees.
9. Visitors are not allowed to be present during aerosol generating procedures such as airway suctioning, oral care, nebulizer treatments, cough assist treatments etc.
10. **Visitors and residents are not able to share food during the visit.**
11. Any items brought by the visitor for the resident will need to be properly disinfected and/or washed prior to the resident receiving the item.
12. There will be indoor bathroom facilities available at the visiting sites.
13. After the visit, the area where the visit took place will be disinfected by the designated staff from the resident’s home.
14. Any resident that is in isolation or otherwise under observation for COVID 19 symptoms is ineligible for in person visits. Video visits will be offered in these circumstances.
15. The Lighthouse will communicate with residents and their guardians to inform them of these updated visitation protocols.

There are some additions to this policy which have been implemented in compliance with the revised CMS guidance:

1. Indoor visits cannot occur if:

 a. The County positivity rate is > 10% and the number of residents in the home who are fully vaccinated is < 70%.

1. Indoor or Outdoor visits cannot occur if:

 a. The resident is in isolation due to confirmed Covid-19 infection

 b. The resident is in quarantine for observation due to exposure to someone who tested positive for Covid, symptoms of Covid, or recent visit to an area known to have higher risk of transmission of the virus (i.e. hospital)

1. If a resident is fully vaccinated (have completed both shots of Moderna or Pfizer, or the 1 shot of J&J, and it has been more than 2 weeks since they received their last shot), the resident can choose to have physical contact with their visitor, such as a brief hug, or holding hands. Both the resident and visitor should be wearing face coverings throughout the entire visit.
2. If a Lighthouse home has a staff member or resident that tests positive for Covid-19 all indoor visits for that home will be suspended for a period of 14 days from the last day that the identified person was present in the home. Outdoor visits will be allowed following the Lighthouse Outdoor Visits policy and procedure for those residents who are not quarantined because they are fully vaccinated or are deemed to have immunity (immune status can be assigned to individuals who have tested positive and recovered from Covid-19 within the preceding 90 days)

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