

VISITATION INSIDE FACILITY

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) has updated its visitation guidelines in long term care facilities due to the decline in community spread of COVID-19.

There are situations where inside visitation is permitted and when it is not. Additionally, if inside visitation is allowed, there are strict guidelines for visitors. They are as follows:

Visitation Requirements:

- 1. If our county risk level is below Level E, inside visitation can occur. Please check the MI Safe Start Map for county updates. As of this date, 2/19/21, Genesee County is at Level D. Should the county risk level go above Level D, visitation must be outdoors.**
- 2. The facility must have had no new COVID-19 cases originate in the facility including those of residents and staff within the prior 14 days and is not currently conducting outbreak testing. (An admission of a resident who is known to be COVID-19 positive at the time of admission does not constitute a facility-onset case. Argentine Care Center will not knowingly admit a positive COVID-19 resident.)**
- 3. The local health department must not have prohibited visitation at the facility.**
- 4. Visitor COVID-19 testing is required under most circumstances.**

Visitation Guidelines:

- 1. Visitation is by appointment only and have reasonable time limits. Visitors must log arrival and departure times, provide contact information, and attest in writing that they will notify the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days after visiting.**
- 2. The number of visitors per visit cannot be more than 2 persons at any given time.**
- 3. All visitors must be COVID-19 tested prior to their visit if the current county risk Level is C or D. (This requirement does not apply to end-of-life visits.)**
- 4. Visitor entry is limited to designated entrances to allow for proper COVID-19 screening. Our designated entrance is by the nurses' station door on the back deck.**
- 5. A health evaluation screening of all visitors each time the visitor enters the facility must be performed. Visitors who do not meet the health evaluation criteria will be denied entry. The screening includes the following:**
 - a) The visitor must have their temperature checked for fever and be less than 100.4° F.**
 - b) Visitors will be asked if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, i.e. cough, shortness of breath and/or sore throat).**
 - c) Visitors will be asked if they have had a known exposure to COVID-19 or has recently traveled.**
 - d) If a visitor is deemed to have a fever, has any COVID-19 signs or symptoms, has had an exposure or has recently traveled, the facility will deny full entry into the building.**

6. Signage will be posted at the entrance door giving instructions to visitors of 1) the need for a COVID-19 evaluation to be done; 2) the testing requirement; and 3) that if they have symptoms of COVID-19, they are not to enter the facility.
7. Visitors must follow physical distancing (6 ft. apart) and refrain from physical contact with residents and employees. (This does not pertain to end of life visits. An end of life visit requires that the visitor has donned appropriate PPE, the visit is only 15 minutes and the resident is not COVID-19 positive.)
8. Hand sanitizer must be used at the time of entry, as well as a face mask be worn at all times. Visitors are encouraged to use hand sanitizer frequently while in the building using our hand sanitizer dispensers located throughout the facility.
9. The facility will provide additional PPE other than a face mask if deemed appropriate.
10. Staff will assist you to a visitation area. Visits for residents who share a room shall not be conducted in the resident's room. Staff will escort the visitor to an exit door and return the resident back to their room once the visit concludes. Visitors "roaming" unescorted in the facility is prohibited. This reduces the risk of infection. Once the visit is done, the staff person will sanitize the visitation area.
11. Visitation is prohibited during Nebulizer treatments or during the collection of respiratory specimens unless deemed necessary by staff for the care and well-being of the resident.
12. Nursing staff who are trained in infection control measures will be available during the visit and will be available for questions.
13. The number of visitors in the facility at any given time is to be limited due to space constraints, infection control capacity and other necessary factors to reduce the risk of transmission.
14. Residents and visitors are not to share food.
15. Updated visitation protocols will be communicated to the residents and their families as they occur via SMS messaging and postings to our website, www.argentinecarecenter.com.
16. Residents who are in isolation or are under observation for COVID-19 will not be allowed visits until isolation/observation status has ended.

The above guidelines must be followed. As you can see, there is a lot of preparation that must be done by facility staff prior to, during and after a visitation session to accommodate a visit. Please make an appointment to schedule the visit with Melissa Yeagle. She will coordinate the screening, testing, staff to assist, visitation area, etc. for you to have a successful visit. We ask for your continued cooperation and understanding in scheduling visit times as we have many families that want to visit and there is a lot of coordination with staff and preparation needed for each visit to be accommodated. Unscheduled visits will not be allowed.

Visitation Tasks:

1. Inside visitation will commence on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

- 2. Visitation times are to be scheduled Monday thru Friday between 10 am and 11 am and between 1 pm and 4 pm.**
- 3. Only 1 resident family will be able to visit at a time and no more than 2 persons per family allowed.**
- 4. Please schedule your visit with Melissa by 3:00 pm the previous day of visit. (A visitation schedule must be posted the day prior for staff to start preparing for the visit.)**
- 5. Visits are to be limited to only 15 minutes per visit. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your visit so that you don't have to use part of your visitation time for required testing and screening.**
- 6. All visitors must have a face mask on while in the building. The facility will provide one if one is needed. You cannot enter the building without one. Immediately use hand sanitizer when you enter. Hand sanitizer will be provided.**
- 7. Children under the age of 2 will not be required to wear a mask. Children above the age of 2 will be required to. Children will be required to be tested using a nasal swab.**
- 8. Please do not share food with your resident, i.e., no eating during your visit.**
- 9. If you bring something in for your resident, do not give it to them until we have sanitized it.**
- 10. We will continue to give zoom visits if it is your preferred way of visitation. Call Melissa to schedule.**

How should I use?

Soap and Water

- **Wet** your hands with clean running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- **Rinse** your hands under clean, running water.
- **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains **at least 60% alcohol**. Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in schools and childcare facilities.

- **Put** enough sanitizer on your hands to cover all surfaces.
- **Rub** your hands together until they feel dry (this should take around 20 seconds).

Do NOT rinse or wipe off the hand sanitizer before it's dry; it may not work well against germs.



LIFE IS BETTER WITH

**CLEAN
HANDS**



www.cdc.gov/handwashing



Hand Sanitizer Use Out and About

GermS are everywhere! They can get onto hands and items we touch during daily activities and make us sick. Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to those around you.

There are important differences between washing hands with soap and water and using hand sanitizer. Soap and water work to remove all types of germs from hands, while sanitizer acts by killing certain germs on the skin. Although alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs in many situations, they should be used in the right situations. Soap and water are more effective than hand sanitizers at removing certain kinds of germs like [norovirus](#), [Cryptosporidium](#), and [Clostridioides difficile](#), as well as chemicals.

Hand sanitizers also may not remove harmful chemicals, such as pesticides and heavy metals like lead.

Handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs, pesticides, and metals on hands. Knowing when to clean your hands and which method to use will give you the best chance of preventing sickness.



When should I use?

Soap and Water

- **Before, during, and after** preparing food
- **Before** eating food
- **Before and after** caring for someone who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- **Before and after** treating a cut or wound
- **After** using the toilet
- **After** [changing diapers, or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom](#)
- **After** touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- **After** handling pet food or pet treats
- **After** touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy

Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizer

- **Before and after** visiting a friend or loved one in a hospital or nursing home, unless the person is sick with *Clostridioides difficile* (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains **at least 60% alcohol**, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

DO NOT use hand sanitizer if your hands are visibly dirty or greasy—for example, after gardening, playing outdoors, fishing, or camping. If a handwashing station is available, wash your hands with soap and water instead.

After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, you should clean your hands by immediately washing your hands with soap or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer to avoid spreading germs.