

RESIDENT CARE AND SERVICES MANUAL

SECTION: RESIDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	INDEX I.D.: RCSM-K-55
SUBJECT: FAMILY ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS (RENAMED)	PAGE: 1 OF 2
APPROVED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	DATE: AUGUST, 2020
REVIEWED BY: DIRECTOR OF CARE	REVIEW DATE: MAY, 2022

STANDARD

Essential caregivers (up to four per resident) may be determined by a resident upon admission. An essential caregiver will be a family member who can demonstrate that they provide direct care to the resident ie. feeding, bathing, exercise, emotional support, cognitive stimulation, psychological support, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. Essential caregivers will be screened as essential caregivers by the screener using our screening application for each visit to the home (regardless of weather the visit is indoors or outdoors)
2. Essential caregivers must have a surveillance COVID-19 test (Rapid Antigen Test) completed at a minimum twice weekly, unless previously tested positive in the last 90 days. Caregivers who are not fully immunized with 3 doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine must be tested each time they visit and wait for the results. **Surveillance Swabbing is not required for outdoor visits, but is encouraged. **
3. A Resident and/or their substitute decision maker is entitled to name up to four essential caregivers for an individual resident. These can be changed with discussion with the nursing team for reasonable reasons.
4. The essential caregiver will wear a surgical/procedural mask at all times. Meticulous hand hygiene must be maintained throughout the visit as well as adherence to all IPAC requirements. Eye protection, gown and gloves may required on an as needed basis depending on the status of infection within the home or due to an outbreak. Individual resident isolation requirements will also be considered.
5. The essential caregiver may visit the resident in their room, take them outdoors for a walk on the grounds or attend activities with them depending on the infection control situation within the home – outbreak vs no outbreak.
6. Six foot distancing is not required for an essential caregiver and their resident.
7. In the case of a shared room, the essential caregiver is encouraged to remain on their resident's side of the room only. The essential caregiver may assist the resident with their meals, in the dining room or a mutually agreed upon location (ie. lounge).

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8. Essential caregivers may bring pets (if they have met the requirements of the pet policy), outside beverages, food, plants, flowers or gifts.
9. Essential caregivers will not be required to schedule visits and there is no time limit imposed for these visits.
10. Essential caregivers will be given a name tag they will be required to wear when in the home and they should return these when they leave. This will allow staff and other residents to be aware of who are essential family caregivers.

GENERAL

Any non-adherence to this protocol will be the basis for the discontinuation of visits or essential caregiving. The Administrator will make the final determination to discontinue visiting or essential caregiving and advise the visitor/caregiver in writing of this finding.

If an outbreak is declared or a resident is symptomatic or isolating under additional precautions, then the essential caregivers may visit, however only one is permitted at a time indoors.

Outdoor visits during an outbreak are permitted for residents who are not symptomatic or isolating under additional precautions and can include up to two essential caregivers at any time.

A caregiver should not visit the long term care home for 10 days after visiting an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if an individual is experiencing symptoms themselves or has tested positive.