

October 16, 2020

Family Ties

Special Edition **COVID-19 Update**

**All Residents
At SWH Are
Safe & Healthy**

Schmitt Woodland Hills is pleased to announce that we will begin to allow indoor visitations in the near future. A draft copy of the policy governing these visits is provided below. There are still a few details which need to be clarified so stay tuned. The policy will be in effect until December 31, 2020 unless it is amended, which may happen at anytime when conditions in Richland County change or conditions within SWH change. Changes which could necessitate an amendment to this policy are detailed below.

Policy:

To allow visitation as appropriate and needed to ensure quality of life for residents while protecting them as much as possible from infection due to COVID 19. This policy is necessary at this time due to the cool fall and cold winter weather that will soon be upon us.

Procedure:

Schmitt Woodland Hills will accommodate and support indoor visitation, including visits for reasons beyond compassionate care situations, based on the following guidelines:

1. There is **NO** new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days in the Skilled Nursing Facility area of the building and the facility is not currently conducting outbreak testing.
2. Visitors **MUST** adhere to the infection control procedures in place in the facility at the time of the visit. Infection control procedures can change at any time dependent upon COVID 19 illness increase in the community or any COVID 19 illness with facility staff or residents.

- 3. There will be only one individual allowed to visit at any given time. This is critical to keep the COVID 19 virus from spreading in our facility. We will also limit the number of visitors and the times of visitation to ensure that we can have adequate staff and time for cleaning in between visitors, etc. This of course would be different for end of life situations.**
- 4. Each resident will be allowed one visitor per week in order for all residents to be able to see their loved one at least once per week. Of course, the other options for visits will still be available and that will be window visits, facetime visits, skype visits, phone visits, and other available electronic forms of visits.**
- 5. Indoor visits will be held in a space set aside for that purpose as determined by the facility. Visits will not occur in resident rooms. This of course would be different for end of life situations.**

Schmitt will use Richland County positivity rate levels to determine how to facilitate indoor visitation as follows:

- 1. LOW POSITIVITY RATE IN COUNTY - If Richland County positivity rates are LOW (less than 5%), then Indoor Visitation can occur as stated above with all proper infection control PPE in place. At this level, the visitor must wear a mask at all times during the visit. As with any visit during the COVID 19 Pandemic, there will be a divider between the visitor and resident at all times in the visiting area and no contact can be made between the resident and the visitor. This is for safety of the resident.**
- 2. MEDIUM POSITIVITY RATE IN THE COUNTY – If Richland County positivity rates are MEDIUM (More than 5% but less than 10%), then Indoor Visitation can occur as stated above with all proper infection control PPE in place. At this level, the visitor must wear a mask at all times during the visit and a face shield as well. As with any visit during the COVID 19 Pandemic, there will be a divider between the visitor and resident at all times in the visiting area and no contact can be made between the residents and the visitor. This is for the safety of the resident.**
- 3. HIGH POSITIVITY RATE IN THE COUNTY – If Richland County positivity rates are HIGH (More than 10%), then Indoor Visitation will only occur for compassionate care situations. At this level, any visitor allowed to visit must wear a face mask, face shield, and any other PPE determined necessary by facility staff.**

Our Facility may also monitor other factors to understand the level of COVID 19 risk, such as rates of COVID 19 like illness in the surrounding area or the positivity rate of COVID 19 or COVID 19 like illness of an adjacent county surrounding where

the facility is located. This is for indoor visits only. Window visits can be done at any time as well as virtual visits.

Compassionate Care Visits:

- 1. End of Life Situations**
- 2. A resident who is newly admitted that is struggling with the change in environment and lack of physical family support.**
- 3. A resident who is grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.**
- 4. A resident who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver(s), is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.**
- 5. A resident, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently when the residents did not have these behaviors in the past.**
- 6. A resident needing or wanting to speak with or visit with their clergy or lay person offering religious and spiritual support.**
- 7. Other compassionate care visits needed as predetermined/prearranged by resident, family, and facility staff.**

All compassionate care visits will be conducted using social distancing and proper PPE as determined by the facility at the time of the visit.

Any resident who is on transmission based precautions for COVID 19 will only be able to receive visits that are virtual, through closed windows, or in person for End of Life situations, with strict adherence to transmission based precautions. This restriction will be lifted once transmission based precautions are no longer required for the resident.

"IF YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE, YOU CAN GET THERE TODAY. AS OF THIS SECOND, QUIT DOING LESS-THAN-EXCELLENT WORK." --Thomas J. Watson

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