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*Integrity ♦ Passion ♦ Excellence ♦ Respect*

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To Our Residents and Family Members:

We are pleased to announce that CMS recently released revised guidance that allows nursing homes to enhance visitation during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). To ensure nursing home residents have the opportunity to visit with their loved ones in a safe, protective environment, Kissito Healthcare will be opening our facilities for visitation under the following guidelines that are consistent with CMS/CDC guidance.

The following guidance has been developed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

- Screening of all individuals who wish to visit with a resident for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals must pass the screening questionnaire before the visitation is permitted. Kissito Healthcare facilities have the right to deny visitation to anyone with signs and symptoms of any type of illness.
- Visitors are required to present proof of vaccination status at each visit.

#### **Visitation for fully vaccinated residents and visitors:**

- Appointments are no longer required when fully vaccinated visitors are visiting fully vaccinated residents.
- A courtesy call is requested for all visits for planning purposes so that visitors may be screened promptly.
- A maximum of three visitors are permitted for in room visitation. Anyone not able to follow CDC/Infections Control practices during the visit will be asked to leave.
- Visitation outside of visitation hours will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Visitors must be escorted by a Kissito Healthcare employee when moving throughout the facilities. When visitation takes place in resident rooms, please press the call light when the visitation concludes so that you may be escorted out of the facility. If you need assistance at any time during your visit, please press the call light for assistance. Please avoid moving throughout the facility without a Kissito employee escort.**
- In room visitation may occur only if the resident does not have a roommate and both resident and visitor has been fully vaccinated. Visitor movement in the center will be limited to the resident room only. Face coverings maybe removed when in resident room and close contact is permitted.
- **KN95 masks are required when moving throughout the facility.**
- Visitors may visit for any length of time as long as it falls within visiting hours.

### **Visitation for unvaccinated residents and/or visitors:**

- Visitation is by appointment only. Please contact the facility directly to schedule an appointment for visitation.
- Visitors are required to wear KN95 masks during visitation.
- Visitation will take place in a designated area of the center both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor visitation is preferred when the weather permits. In room visitation for unvaccinated residents and/or visitors will be permitted only during compassionate care and end of life scenarios.
- Infection control practices must be strictly adhered to, including hand hygiene, social distancing of 6 feet and face covers are to be worn at all times during the visits. Anyone unable to adhere to the infection control practices or understand these practices will not be allowed to visit.
- Weather permitting, visitation will be scheduled outdoors in designated areas. Staff members will monitor the visitation areas during the visits while providing residents and visitors privacy.
- Visitation protocols are subject to change based on new onset of COVID-19 cases and County positivity rate, or changes to CMS/CDC guidance.
- Food and gift items are permitted to be brought to the resident if desired.
- **Please arrive 15 minutes early** to all visitation appointments. Punctuality is very important to secure appointment times and to complete pre-visit screening.

These core principles are consistent with the CDC guidance for nursing homes and should be adhered to at all times. To further reduce the risk of transmission, Kissito Healthcare will be using physical barriers, such as Plexiglas dividers, during visitation. Currently, we are in the final planning stages of opening our facilities for visitation. **Please contact our Centers directly to schedule visitation.** We are excited to be progressing through the stages of reopening, and plan to do so in a safe and protective manner. Should you have any questions please contact us directly.

Thank you,

Kathy Sanders

Chief Nursing Officer