

June 14, 2021

Happy summer to all!

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying this warmer weather as we head outdoors after a very long 15 months!

As of today, we have NO cases of COVID-19 in the facility amongst the residents. We have two employees currently furloughed – one due to exposure to another individual and the second who tested positive weeks ago and has yet to receive a negative test result.

Currently, we have over 96% of the residents and over 61% of the staff vaccinated or in the process of being vaccinated awaiting their second dose.

Last week, Governor Cuomo removed the mandate for fully vaccinated staff to be swabbed for COVID-19, leaving in place the requirement for unvaccinated staff to continue to be swabbed twice per week.

As a reminder, residents and staff can be vaccinated at Fulton Commons for free upon request – if your loved one has not been vaccinated and you would like him/her to do so, please call your Nursing Unit Manager to make these arrangements.

Enclosed I have included a copy of several policies for your review. Please read and adhere to these policies at all times. Included are:

- Visitation Policy/Procedure/ Plan updated June 1, 2021.
- Compassionate Care Policy and Procedure updated June 1, 2021.
- Personal Caregiving Visitor Policy and Procedure initiated June 1, 2021.

You may be considered for Compassionate Care and/or Personal Caregiving Visitation by discussing your individual situation with call Mr. Luke Laing, ADNS at extension 5150 or Mrs. Carol Frawley, DNS at ext. 5149.

I am aware that several of you have expressed frustration over the limited visiting policy - while I understand your frustration, my primary goal remains keeping all residents safe and healthy. The facility continues to maintain responsibility for monitoring visits to ensure mask wearing, hand sanitizing and in the case of non-vaccinated residents, social distancing per NYSDOH regulations. As the regulations change, so will our visitation policy.

It is such a pleasure to see so many of you in the facility again! Your-ongoing support and cooperation is deeply appreciated by the entire staff of Fulton Commons.

Sincerely,



Cathie Doyle, Administrator

FULTON COMMONS CARE CENTER

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Visitation Policy/ Procedure/Plan

It is the policy of Fulton Commons Care Center (FCCC) to improve the quality of life during the COVID-19 pandemic, while mitigating the risk of resurgence by allowing outside visitation, indoor visitation and recreational activities according to the most current NYS DOH guidance.

Requirements prior to facility permitting visitation:

- FCCC will continue to facilitate communication between residents and family members et. al. through virtual visits and visitation when necessary based on end of life or other medically necessary issues.
- FCCC will continue to separate residents into cohorts of positive, negative and unknown as well as separate staffing teams to deal with COVID-19 positive residents and non-positive residents when necessary.
- Limited visitation as outlined will begin at least 14 days after the last COVID-19 staff member or resident has tested positive on a unit. Visitation will continue to be permitted on unaffected units.
- FCCC will continue to post signage regarding the use of face mask and hand hygiene as well as floor markings to cue social distancing.
- FCCC has already facilitated baseline COVID-19 testing of all residents and will continue to test all consenting residents weekly or as directed by the Department of Health.
- Residents exhibiting any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be isolated and tested immediately regardless of weekly testing.
- All FCCC employees will be tested per the Department of Health's guidelines. Employees testing positive will be immediately notified and removed from the schedule.
- All residents, employees and all persons entering FCCC will adhere to the written screening protocols as per the facility policy. Resident screening includes but is not limited to daily symptom checks, vital signs including pulse oximetry. Employees are screened as they arrive for work each shift and all other persons as they enter the facility.
- This formal visitation plan (below) will be broadcast via mail, blast call and posted on the Fulton Commons Care Center Facebook page to provide visitors with a clear understanding of the visitation guidelines. Same will be notified if a positive case develops and visitation is paused.
- FCCC acknowledges - and loved ones are hereby notified - that NYS DOH reserves the right to revoke visitation or modify guidelines at any time.

Visitation:

- A maximum of two (2) visitors per visit is strongly encouraged. Children under the age of 2 will not be counted.

- All visitors must wear a facemask or other face covering during visitation, including while visiting outside. FCCC will make available PPE to ensure adequate face coverings for both visitors and residents, if medically tolerated. FCCC will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer to residents and visitors and will ask them to demonstrate appropriate use.
- All visitors must be appropriately screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to visitation. Visitation will be denied to any visitor that refuses screening or exhibits any COVID-19 signs/symptoms.
- Screening will include temperature checks and questionnaire completion and review. Screenings will be archived for DOH access when requested. Rapid COVID-19 testing is strongly encouraged and is available at the facility.
- Visitation is permitted Monday – Friday, 9AM – 5PM with no appointment necessary for fully vaccinated residents only. If a resident has been fully vaccinated for greater than 2 weeks, the resident may choose to not socially distance and/or to touch their visitors - masks must be worn. Visitors must limit interaction to only the resident they are visiting and not visit multiple residents at a time and must always socially distance from staff members and other visitors. No wandering on the units is permitted please.
- Visitation for NON-vaccinated residents must be made by appointment through recreation at ext. 5152. Mask must be worn, social distancing must be adhered to and NO touching is permitted.
- COVID positive residents, residents presenting with signs and symptoms of COVID and residents under 14-day quarantine will not be eligible for visits.
- Staff members will be assigned to assist with transitioning of residents, monitoring of visitation as well as cleaning and disinfecting areas.
- Visitors that fail to comply with all visitation requirements will be prohibited from further visitation for the duration of the pandemic, per NYS DOH requirements.

Activities and Consultation:

- Specialty practitioners like Dental and Podiatry may continue. Strict adherence to infection control guidelines will continue to be required.
- All non-emergent medical trips outside the facility remain prohibited until further notice.
- Communal dining and activities are permitted with social distancing strictly adhered to. Entertainers/volunteers may now be utilized with proof of vaccination and/or a negative swab/test.
- Small group activities may continue on each unit provided residents are socially distanced from each other, and appropriate facial coverings and hand sanitizer is in use. Residents will no longer be confined to their own rooms if they have been fully vaccinated and wear a mask outside their room. Unit-to-Unit visiting remains prohibited.
- Hairdressing services will continue on a unit-by-unit basis with one resident being serviced at a time and all infection control protocols followed by resident and hairdresser.