



January 4, 2022

Dear BaneCare Families and Residents,

CMS and Mass Dept of Public Health have recently made changes to visitation policies for nursing home patients and residents. Please note that we strongly recommend that you and your loved ones be vaccinated. We also strongly encourage everyone to take the rapid test at our front desk upon arrival to our center.

Visits are allowed for any length of time, and for all residents as permitted under the regulations. You do not need to schedule your visits in advance.

While not recommended, residents who are in isolation or quarantine can still receive visitors unless otherwise directed by the department of epidemiology. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident must wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated). It is strongly advised that visitors to COVID-19 positive or quarantined residents should be fully vaccinated and maintain physical distance. We will offer visitors well-fitting filtering facemasks and monitor compliance with hand hygiene.

While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, it is permitted. If you would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, you should wear face coverings or masks during visits, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room when permitted. Please be aware that if you visit someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you may be considered a close contact ( <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-the-general-public>) which could restrict you from further visitation for a period of time.

We continue to offer electronic methods for virtual communication between residents and visitors, such as Skype and FaceTime.

All visitors as well as anyone else entering the facility are still required to be screened for recent exposures or signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Any individual who has a positive screen with symptoms of COVID-19 infection or who has been advised to quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure in the prior 14 days will not be permitted to visit with a resident. Additionally, any visitor who had a diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 in the past 10 days must have been diagnosed at least 5 days prior to visiting the facility, be able to wear a facemask at all times, and you are strongly encouraged to Binax before entry.

**Any visitor who tests positive or develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 within two days after visiting indoors or outdoors must immediately notify the long-term care facility.**

We want to remind you that we still have a vulnerable population and we thank you for helping us to keep our residents, families and staff members safe. We appreciate your continued patience, support and understanding.

Warmest Regards,

***BaneCare Executive Directors***

