

Bright Side Manor
Updated Policies on Visitation and Communal Activities
May 3, 2020

Visitation

Visitation may take place without masking and without social distancing **under the following circumstances:**

- Both the resident and the visitor(s) are fully vaccinated.
- The resident and visitor(s) are **alone** in the resident's room or a **designated visiting space** where no one else is present.
- The visitor must mask and social distance from all other residents, staff, and visitors while in the nursing home.
- If a resident or any of the resident's visitors are not fully vaccinated, or if other residents, staff or visitor groups are present, masking and social distancing should be maintained throughout the visit.
- Visitors are encouraged to bring proof of vaccination if available. If proof of vaccination is not available, Bright Side Manor reserves the right to ask visitors about vaccination status in order to determine masking and social distancing protocols during the visit.

Activities and Dining

Activities and dining will now take place without masking and without social distancing **under the following circumstances:**

- All individuals present in the activity or dining area, including all residents, staff, and visitors, are fully vaccinated.

- Bright Side Manor may cohort residents according to vaccination status meaning that residents who are not vaccinated may not be able to participate in communal dining or certain activities. If any individuals are present in the activity or dining area that are not fully vaccinated, masking and social distancing will be maintained throughout the activity for all individuals regardless of vaccination status.
- Vaccination status will be determined in a way that maintains the individual's privacy and dignity. Plans for activities and dining will be made in advance so that vaccination status can be determined and appropriate decisions made. If vaccination status is unknown, protocols for "unvaccinated" individuals will be followed.
- When a decision is made to "cohort" activities and dining according to vaccination status, Bright Side Manor and its staff will always comply with Resident Rights requirements.
- Staff will additionally follow the above guidance on masking and social distancing when in break rooms or in-person meetings. If all individuals present are fully-vaccinated, all individuals may forego masking and social distancing.

Testing

Testing protocols in response to outbreak and in response to symptomatic residents and staff have not changed. Expanded screening testing protocols (routine staff testing according to county positivity rate) have been changed to allow fully vaccinated, asymptomatic staff to be exempted from routine staff testing.

Additional Notes

Bright Side Manor is unique in that most of our residents are in shared rooms and our common areas, including our backyard, are limited in size. Visitors must understand that we are working very hard to keep our residents and employees safe and healthy .

Visits to our facility, especially by visitors who are not vaccinated, must be carefully coordinated so that no area becomes crowded and no residents are put at risk. This is why we have designated areas in which visits can take place and visits must be scheduled in advance.

For family members wishing to take a resident off premises, we ask that you carefully consider the risks involved and minimize contact with outside individuals whose vaccination status is unknown or known to be unvaccinated. Please keep in mind that our ability to quarantine and cohort residents with potential exposure is extremely limited. Furthermore, residents in shared room are putting their roommates at risk if they are exposed when outside of our community. For this reason, we request that visits outside of Bright Side Manor be kept to a minimum and be conducted with the utmost care and caution. PPE will be provided for residents traveling outside of Bright Side Manor.

With the COVID positivity rates still relatively high in parts of New Jersey and many unknowns about the vaccination, i.e. how long it is protective, we will continue to be extremely careful and cautious so as not to put our residents and employees in harm's way. On a positive note, we expect to begin construction on our new addition in the very near future and, once completed, we will have significantly more space, amenities and flexibility.

Please contact our Administrator, Jorge Angulo, LPN, CALA or Wellness Director, Lisa Cooper, RN with any questions or concerns regarding these updated policies. We are extremely grateful for your continued cooperation and support.