



## **COVID Visitation Protocols Effective April 12, 2021**

As Massachusetts moves into Phase IV of reopening, The Guild has reviewed its visitation protocols to increase visitation opportunities for our residents and their families and friends while adhering to recommended Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines. Effective April 12, 2021 visitation, either on-site or off-site, can occur twice per week per resident. Parents and guardians may also now access the resident's bedroom to access needs and check personal possessions.

### **ON-SITE VISITATION**

On-site visits will continue to be permitted at the residence's designated outdoor area. Indoor visitation will be allowed in residences that have not had any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past 14 days. Visitation should occur in a space which allows visitation to occur in a way that ensures physical distancing of the visitors with residents and staff. Visitors should remain at least 6 feet from the resident and staff member(s) to the maximum extent feasible. However, close contact, including touch, may be allowed if desired by the resident and visitor.

Visits will be limited to either two visitors (or more than two visitors if all visitors are part of the same household) per resident at a time. No more than one resident of a home can have visitors at the same time.

All visitors must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days, and have their temperature checked prior to visiting with a resident. Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, or new loss of taste or smell.

- Anyone with a fever (100.0 F or over) will not be permitted to visit the home.
- Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days or if they have been ordered by a medical professional or public health official to quarantine due to exposure.

Any individual who participates in a visitation and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, or new onset loss of smell or taste within 2 days after the visitation must immediately notify the residence of the date they were on site, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations where the visit occurred.

All visitors over 2 years of age, including fully vaccinated visitors, are required to wear a face covering during the visit, if they can do so safely. Residents, including fully vaccinated residents, will also be encouraged to wear face coverings if they can do so safely. Public health guidance recommends that all individuals, including fully vaccinated individuals, continue to wear face coverings in public settings or settings in which some individuals may not be vaccinated.

Visitors may like to bring a favorite food or a meal to share. However, eating together during the visit should be monitored with risk reduction in mind:

- Physical distance must be maintained while food is being shared during an indoor visit.
- Visitors and residents must wear masks to the extent possible and practice hand hygiene before and after eating.
- Food should not be shared off the same plate and cups should not be shared. Each person should use their own eating utensils and not share plates or cups.
- Any communal food brought that is left over after a visit should be disposed of or should be taken by the visitor.
- Any unopened food or snacks bought for the individual may be given to staff who can label with the resident's name.

On-site visits should be planned in advance with the residential manager to ensure only one visit occurs in each residence at a time. Homes must keep a log of all visitors, including name, contact information, date of visit, and staff on shift.

### **OFF-SITE VISITATION**

- Off-site visits should also be scheduled in advance with the residential manager to ensure the resident is prepared for the visit and all medication needed for the visit are packed in accordance with MAP requirements.
- Individuals may go with family for an off-site visit, including an overnight visit, provided the resident and visitor are not currently under isolation because they are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive or quarantined because of close or household contact. The resident and visitor(s) must not have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and must not have a temperature of  $>100.0^{\circ}$  F.
- The family member should complete and sign the Off-Site Visitation Form before leaving for the visit. For off-site visits, the family will be asked to provide the names and contact information for any person the resident is anticipated to come into contact with on the visit in case contact tracing becomes necessary. The family should communicate modifications to this section of the form upon return of the resident to the home.