



March 23, 2021

A message from: Phil Sell, Interim Nursing Home Administrator

Dear Loved Ones of Residents:

Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect yourself, our residents and the community from the spread of COVID-19. Our facility remains committed to providing services and following the CDC guidelines. Infection control protocols remain along with resident and staff testing. We are excited that residents and staff of senior care facilities have been provided first access to the vaccines. Many of our residents have underlying health conditions that put them at a higher risk of infection and severe illness from COVID-19. Vaccination is an important step to prevent them from contracting the virus. We encourage all individuals who are eligible to be vaccinated.

#### **CMS Issues New Post-Vaccination Visitation Guidance for Senior Living**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) issued [new guidance](#) to loosen restrictions regarding in-person visitation for nursing homes, assisted livings and personal care homes. The new guidance allows facilities to reopen visitation including scheduled indoor visitation. Visitations will be scheduled based on the current COVID-19 status of the facility, the current County positivity rate and the current medical status of the resident.

The CMS guidance allows facilities to:

- Encourage outdoor visitation when able to accommodate as the preferred visitation location
- Schedule visitation
  - Visitations can be staggered in order to ensure that there are not too many visitors in the building at one time, for effective infection control precautions, also to ensure social distancing
  - Visitations are not required to be supervised
- Limit the length of visitation to allow all residents and families wishing to visit an equal opportunity
- Limit the number of visitors per resident, again for effective infection control precautions, including social distancing



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There are exceptions to the visitation guidelines. Visitation may be declined under the following circumstances:

- Unvaccinated residents if the COVID-19 County positivity rate is greater than 10% **and** less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions; or
- Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria for release from quarantine.

The Bradford County Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center continues to follow the [current guidance](#) for infection control prevention including wearing a mask, maintaining 6 feet distance from others and following facility guidance on visitation and [infection control](#).

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep yourself and your family members safe. We will continue to update you on any new information about COVID-19, the vaccination, and specific guidance as it relates to long term care facilities.

Please contact us with additional questions at 570-297-4111.

Sincerely,

Phil Sell, Interim Nursing Home Administrator  
Administrator