

**The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch
The Highlands & Isle of Skye
COVID-19 Visitation Policy**

Revised 4.6.2022 to Reflect the State of Florida "No Patient Left Alone Act" April 6, 2022

Indoor, In-Person Visitation with members of The Highlands & Isle of Skye

The administration and staff of The Highlands & Isle of Skye understand the importance of our members being able to spend time with loved ones, family, and friends. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) indoor general visitation for members has been very restrictive to protect the health and safety of our members, as well as the protection of facility staff needed to care for our members. The Highlands & Isle of Skye has updated the relevant policies regarding member visitation and the April 6, 2022, State of Florida SB 988, "No Patient Left Alone Act." Consequently, this facility will not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause. Policies will continue to be updated as regulatory guidance is updated.

The Highlands and Isle of Skye acknowledges the concerns for infection transmission to members, visitors and staff associated with open visitation and will continue to require staff and visitors to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention to mitigate these concerns. The requirement for members wearing masks is mentioned throughout our visitation policies. It is understood that many of our members are unable to tolerate masks due to medical conditions and that those with memory issues may not remember to leave a mask in place and may therefore not be able to consistently follow the source control portion of these policies. We also acknowledge the right of each member to choose based on their individual circumstance and preference. We will continue to encourage member compliance with all infection control practices. The Administrator or designee is responsible for ensuring that staff and other persons in the facility adhere to the policies and procedures of the facility.

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

Visitation at The Highlands and Isle of Skye will be conducted following the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and best practices consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- 1.** All staff, visitors, and other persons entering The Highlands & Isle of Skye will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperature taken upon entry into the facility. Facility administration and staff have the responsibility to deny entry to the facility any person failing to meet the screening guidelines including those with a positive viral test, with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or who meet the criteria for quarantine.
- 2.** All visitors will follow the proper method for completing hand hygiene during their visit with the proper use of alcohol-based hand rub being the preferred method.

- 3.** All visitors must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times when entering and exiting the facility through common areas and when around any staff and other members.
- 4.** All visitors will adhere to the CDC Guidance for physical distancing of at least six feet from other members during their visit.
- 5.** Instructional signage with source control information for visitors and staff will be placed throughout the facility.
- 6.** Visitor education will be provided on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, facility infection control precautions, required use of face coverings, hand hygiene, proper entrance and exits to use when arriving and leaving the facility and the routes to designated areas.
- 7.** The facility staff will clean and disinfect high touch surfaces often and will clean and disinfect any designated visitation areas after visits.
- 8.** Staff will appropriately use and wear PPE.

Indoor In-Person Visitation

The Highlands & Isle of Skye staff will facilitate in-person, indoor visitation for all members per the April 6, 2022, State of Florida, SB 988, "No Patient Left Alone Act." The Highlands & Isle of Skye members may receive visitors of their choosing at the time of their choosing in a manner that does not place other members at risk or impose on the rights of another member. The facility does not restrict the length of visits, the number of visits, the number of visitors, or the type of visitors for any member unless instructed by the member to do so.

- 1.** Visitors are not required to schedule an appointment to spend time with a member.
- 2.** The Highlands & Isle of Skye have placed no limit on the length of visits, the frequency of visits or the number of visitors an individual member may have at one time. To ensure that physical distancing is maintained in adherence to the COVID-19 principles of infection prevention, large gatherings with a large number of visitors in the same place at the same time will be avoided unless a venue suitable to maintain the required physical distancing is available.
- 3.** Outdoor visits are a preferred venue for members and visitors who are unvaccinated but are not mandatory.

4. Since all members have private apartments, indoor visits will take place in the member's apartment.
5. Visitors will not be allowed to wander through the facility. They must go directly to the apartment of the member they are visiting after completing the COVID-19 screening and must leave the facility promptly at the end of the visit via the appropriate exit route.
6. Our staff value and honor the rights of our members to deny consent for a visit at any time and will assist our members as needed in such circumstances.
7. As per the CDC Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention, wearing a face mask during visitation and physical distancing from the member they are visiting will be encouraged by visitors, but is not required, based on the Sarasota County Community Transmission Rate as indicated in the CDC's COVID online Data Tracker-County View.
 - a. Members, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks and have close contact (including touch) with their visitor. Members (or their representative) who are not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, will be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit.
 - b. The April 6, 2022, Florida State, "No Patient Left Alone Act" SB 988 mandates that consensual physical contact between a member and the visitor must be allowed.
8. All visitors, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face masks and maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from all other members while entering and exiting the facility.
9. For the protection of members and staff, visitors who violate the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention and The Carroll Center policies and procedures after being educated, will be asked to leave the facility and in-person visitation will be suspended for the specific visitor.

Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination of Visitors

The facility encourages testing of visitors during times when the County Community Transmission Rate is at the *Substantial* or *High* level. We encourage all visitors to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility (e.g., within 2-3 days of their visit). However, visitors are not required to test or to show proof of having tested as a condition of visitation.

The facility also encourages visitors to become vaccinated against COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 illness. Visitors are not required to be vaccinated or to show proof of vaccination as a condition of visitation. Visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face mask while entering and exiting the facility (while on their way to and from the members apartment).

The Administrator will make every effort to facilitate safe, indoor, in-person visitation consistent with the regulations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, the Florida Department of Emergency Management, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the State of Florida SB 988, April 6, 2022, "No Patient Left Alone Act." This policy will be updated as regulatory guidance is released.