



The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility Policy COVID-19 Visitation-R

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

The administration and staff of The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility understand the importance of the residents being able to spend time with loved ones, family, and friends. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), indoor general visitation for all residents has been very restrictive in an effort to protect the health and safety of those most vulnerable, our residents, as well as the protection of facility staff needed to care for our residents. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility has updated the relevant policies to the September 17, 2020, QSO-20-39-NH revised March 10, 2022, by CMS in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding resident 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 consistent with 42 CFR §483.10(f) (4) (Resident Rights). Policies will continue to be updated as regulatory guidance is updated.

The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility acknowledges the concerns for infection transmission to residents, 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 residents wearing of masks is mentioned throughout our visitation policies. It is understood that many of The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility residents are unable to tolerate masks due to medical conditions and that those with memory issues cannot remember to leave a mask in place and may therefore not be able to consistently follow the source control portion of these policies. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility staff will continue to encourage resident 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 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 for nursing homes in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

1. Visitors to The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility and other persons entering the facility will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 using a hard copy screening tool in conjunction with a temperature check. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility administration and nursing staff have the responsibility to deny entry to the facility of any persons 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 be requested to 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 face covering or mask covering their mouth and nose at all times when entering the facility, while inside the facility's common areas and when around any of The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility staff and other residents.
4. Instructional signage with source control information for visitors and staff will be placed throughout the facility.
5. Visitor education will be provided on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility infection control precautions, required use of face coverings, hand hygiene, proper entrance and exits to use when arriving and departing the facility and the routes to designated areas.
6. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility will clean and disinfect high frequency touched surfaces often and will clean and disinfect the designated visitation areas after visits.
7. Staff will appropriately use and wear PPE.
8. Resident and staff testing will be conducted as required at 42CFR 483.80(h). (See QSO-20-38-NH)

Indoor In-Person Visitation

The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility will facilitate in-person indoor visitation for all residents as permitted under the applicable CMS regulations and the April 6, 2022, State of Florida, SB 988, "No Patient Left Alone Act." The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility residents may receive visitors of their choosing at the time of their choosing in a

manner that does not place other residents at risk or impose on the rights of another resident.

1. Visitors to The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility residents are not required to schedule a visit appointment to spend time with a resident for a routine visit. Visiting hours are from 8am to 7pm Monday thru Friday and 8am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday.
2. In an effort 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. Many outdoor locations are available and recommended for group visits.
3. Outdoor visits are a preferred venue for residents and visitors who are unvaccinated for the protection of the other facility residents but are not mandatory.
4. Visits may take place for residents in their room unless they share the room with a roommate who is unvaccinated or is immunocompromised. In that case, the visit will take place in a designated visiting area other than in the resident's room.
5. Visitors will not be allowed to wander through the facility. They must go directly to their designated visitation area or resident's room after completing the COVID-19 screening and must leave the facility promptly at the end of the visit via the appropriate exit route.
6. The staff of The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility values and honors the rights of the resident to deny consent for a visit at any time and will assist the resident as needed in such circumstances.
7. As per the CDC Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention, source control (masking) and physical distancing will be observed by visitors based on The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility's County level of community transmission rate as indicated in the CDC's COVID online Data Tracker- County View.
 - a. The CDC Core Principles recommend:
 - i. When the Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility County's level of community transmission rate is substantial or high, residents and visitors should wear face masks and practice physical distancing at all times regardless of vaccination status.
 - ii. When the Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility County's level of community transmission rate is low to moderate residents and visitors are recommended to wear face masks and practice physical distancing especially if either the resident or the visitor is not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses. If both the resident and visitor are up to date with all recommended

COVID-19 vaccine doses and neither one is at risk for severe disease, both may choose to remove face masks and forego physical distancing during the visit.

- b. Residents, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and have close contact (including touch) with their visitor. Residents (or their representative) and their visitors, 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.
 - c. The April 6, 2022, Florida State, “No Patient Left Alone Act” SB 988 mandates that consensual physical contact between a resident and the visitor must be allowed.
8. For the protection of residents and staff, visitors who violate the Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention and The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility policies and procedures after being educated, will be asked to leave the facility and in-person visitation will be suspended for the specific visitor.

Special Circumstances Requiring In-person Visitation

In accordance with the April 6, 2022, State of Florida, SB 988, “No Resident Left Alone Act,” The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility must allow in-person visitation in all the following circumstances unless the resident objects:

- End-of-Life situations;
- With a resident who is struggling with a change in environment and the lack of in-person family support when having previously lived with family before admission to The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility;
- With a resident is experiencing emotional distress or is grieving the loss of a friend or family member who has recently died;
With a resident who is in the process of making one or more major medical decisions;
- With a resident who needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink when that assistance was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; and/or
- With a resident who used to talk and interact with others who is now seldom speaking.

In-person Visitation during COVID-19 Outbreak in the Facility

Under the November 12, 2021, CMS guidance, indoor visitation for The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility residents may occur for all residents at all times including during the times when the facility is investigating or experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19. An outbreak is defined by CDC as a new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel or the nursing-home onset COVID-19 infection in a resident.

1. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility will make a resident or their representative and the visitor(s) aware of the facilities status when under investigation or outbreak for COVID-19, the risks associated with visiting during this time and the infection control practices being followed during their visit.
2. During such times visitation should take place in the resident's room unless disallowed due to contraindications concerning a resident's roommate.
3. Both resident and visitor must wear face masks regardless of vaccination status.
4. Residents on transmission-based precautions are not recommended to have visitors; however, CMS states that visitation may be allowed in the resident's room with the resident wearing a face mask and the visitor wearing required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the visit. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility may offer to provide PPE to the visitors to wear during the visit but under this guidance is not required to do so.
5. When other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in addition to face coverings is necessary for the visit, visitors must follow the instructions from The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility staff and wear the PPE properly during the entire visit.

Important Considerations for Visitation

Visitation for The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility resident will be person-centered, considering the resident's physical, mental and psychosocial well-being and will support their quality of life. To further reduce transmission risk, physical barriers such as Plexiglas dividers or curtains may be used when necessary due to SARS-CoV-2 level of infection in the community. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility will enable visits to be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy.

The CMS guidelines do not indicate any age restriction for visitors; however, all visitors to The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility must be able to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention. If a specific visitor violates the core principals of COVID-19 infection prevention and The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility visitation policies and procedures in-person visits will be suspended, and the visitor will be asked to leave. The Chateau Skilled Nursing Facility staff will monitor for any visitors having difficulty adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and take appropriate action to educate and/or to ensure that the visitor leaves the facility.