

Fort Caroline Gardens LLC dba Her Heart Gardens

Administrator: Daniel Cano

Scope: This policy applies to all visitors at Her Heart Gardens Assisted Living (the facility)

Purpose: To establish proper rules and ensure safe visitations at the facility

Compliance: The Administrator and/or designee will ensure staff adherence to the visitation policies and procedures.

The facility will allow entry to:

- Family members and friends visiting our residents. The resident can visit with any person of his or her choice, with up to 6 guests at one time. For special events such as Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. an exception to allow more guests can be approved by the Administrator.
- Healthcare workers: physicians, home health care nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, hospice aides, etc.
- Public Guardians, Professional Guardians.
- Attorneys of Record for residents in an Adult Mental Health and Treatment Facility or forensic facility for court related matters.
- Representatives of the federal or state government: Ombudsman, Department of Children and Families, Department of Health, Department of Elderly Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of The Attorney General, any law enforcement officer, and any emergency medical personnel.
- Essential caregivers and compassionate care visitors.
- General visitors – prospective residents and their families, third party vendors, chaplains, priests, scheduled entertainers, etc. The facility would not allow entry and/or escort out persons who are:
 - Under influence of alcohol and drugs
 - Present in inappropriate attire
 - Verbally and/or physically aggressive
 - Possess any item that may be harmful to the residents and employees – weapons, hazard materials, etc.

All visitors:

- Are recommended to perform proper hand hygiene for infection control procedures. Face masks are always available in the lobbies. Hand sanitizer can be found by the Front Desk, each dining room, and upon request. All visitors must review infection control and education policies and PPE information which are available at the front desk.
- Are required to sign in the Visitors Log upon entry and sign out upon leaving. The Visitor Log is located at the Front Desk and is maintained by the receptionist. Visitors are not required to provide vaccination or immunization status. Visitors will be screened at the front desk in accordance with any AHCA guidelines in place at that time.
- Should respect our residents' privacy, especially if willing to enter residents' rooms. Visitors may refer to our employees for help, if needed.
- Are allowed consensual physical contact allowed between a resident and visitor(s), i.e. Hugs, handshakes, etc.

Visiting hours:

- To ensure our residents' rest the facility recommends visiting hours between 9 AM and 9 PM daily, except for emergency situations. There will be no restriction on the length of time or frequency that a visitor visits as long as he/she is compliant with facility guidelines and is not disruptive.
- Essential Caregivers are allowed entry from 7am-11pm (this can be extended by the administrator under special circumstances, such as during end of life situations.)

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- Essential healthcare professionals, representatives of Government and State Agencies, Law enforcement and Emergency services are allowed in the building at any time

Facial Coverings and PPE

Purpose:

The purpose of the facial covering policy is designed to promote resident, visitors, and staff compliance with Florida Statute 59AER23-2, Standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for Infection Control which ensures Floridians be free from:

- (1) mandated facial coverings.
- (2) mandates of any kind relating to COVID-19 vaccines; and
- (3) discrimination based on such vaccination status.

Policy:

In accordance with the Florida Statutes §408.824 and the standards set forth in the Florida Administrative Code 59AER23-1 and -2, the facility has adopted the following policy regarding the use of facial coverings for infection control by its residents, visitors, staff members and others coming into healthcare facilities.

Definitions:

Common Area – refers to areas in a health care setting where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

Employee – refers to any person under employment or contract of a health care setting, including health care practitioners, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, students, and volunteers.

Facial Covering – means a cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.

Patient – refers to a person receiving services from a health care practitioner or health care provider. (For the purposes of this policy, the term "residents" is used to indicate persons residing in the facility.

Sterile Areas - refers to locations where surgery is conducted or where procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed.

Sterile Procedure- refers to aseptic procedures with the goal of minimizing the risk of microbial contamination to reduce the rate of invasive or surgical site infection.

Visitor – refers to any person in a health care setting who is not an employee or patient (resident) of the health care setting.

Procedure:

1. The facility does not require the universal use of facial coverings and/or PPE by persons in order to gain access to, entry upon, service from, or admission to the facility or otherwise discriminate against persons based on their refusal to wear a facial covering.
2. Persons who freely choose to wear facial coverings and other PPE while within the facility may do so based upon their personal preference.
3. Facial coverings and other PPE remain an important intervention in preventing respiratory bacterial and viral transmission. The facility and its health care practitioners may choose to require a resident to wear a facial covering only when the resident is in a common area of the facility and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed as having an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
4. The facility and its health care practitioners may choose to require a visitor to wear a facial covering and other PPE only when the visitor is:
 - a. exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

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- b. in sterile areas of the facility or an area where sterile procedures are being performed.
 - c. in a resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission; or
 - d. visiting a resident whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary to the resident's safety.
5. In cases where a resident is quarantined in accordance with ACHA guidelines because of an active contagious infection, signage will be posted and PPE will be provided to staff and essential caregivers/visitors to facilitate continued visitation, if the resident/guest desires to do so.

Opt-out Requirements of 59AER23-2 when facial coverings are being required.

1. The facility will follow the regulations of 59AER23-2 for persons requesting to opt-out of wearing a facial covering.

2. The facility will provide for the opting-out of wearing a facial covering that is in accordance with the Florida Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026, F.S., including the following: a. 381.026 (5) Responsibilities Of Patients.- Each patient of a health care provider or health care facility shall respect the health care provider's and health care facility's right to expect behavior on the part of patients which, considering the nature of their illness, is reasonable and responsible.

b. 381.026 (4)(b)3. Rights Of Patients - A patient has the right to be given by his or her health care provider information concerning diagnosis, planned course of treatment, alternatives, risks, and prognosis, unless it is medically inadvisable or impossible to give this information to the patient, in which case the information must be given to the patient's guardian or a person designated as the patient's representative. A patient has the right to refuse this information.

c. 381.026 (4)(b)4. Rights Of Patients - A patient has the right to refuse any treatment based on information required by this paragraph, except as otherwise provided by law. The responsible provider shall document any such refusal.

d. 381.026 (4)(b)5. Rights Of Patients - A patient in a health care facility has the right to know what facility rules and regulations apply to patient conduct.

3. The facility will provide for the opting-out of wearing a facial covering when requested by the visitor if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available based upon the individual resident's and visitor's circumstance.

4. As a health care provider, the facility will allow an employee to opt out of facial covering requirements unless an employee is:

- a. Conducting sterile procedures
- b. Working with a patient whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees

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without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety.

- c. With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation, or
- d. Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

References:

Florida Statutes section 408.824; Chapter 023-043, Laws of Florida

Florida Administrative Code 59AER23-1 Definitions; Chapter: Emergency Rule for Year 2023

Florida Administrative Code 59AER23-2; Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control