



November 16, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 vaccines have decreased the number of cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes throughout the country since the implementation of the vaccine nearly a year ago. During that time, nursing homes have encouraged all residents, families, visitors, and staff to become vaccinated. On November 4, CMS issued an interim final rule for all programs that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding to implement a vaccine mandate for staff. This vaccine requirement has a phased-in approach, with all covered entities expected to be in full compliance by the January 4, 2022 deadline.

Core Infection Prevention and Control Principles:

- All individuals who enter a nursing home must be screened for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are denied entry if displaying any symptoms, have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine.
- Appropriate hand hygiene by all visitors.
- Physical distancing and face coverings.

It is vital to the safety of our residents that all visitors always adhere to these core infection prevention and control principals during visits.

Visitation:

- **Outdoor visitation:** Calvin Community will facilitate outdoor visitation, weather permitting, and the resident is able to so. Outdoor visitation is preferred, particularly when the visitor is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visitation also generally poses a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.
- **Indoor visitation:**
 - Visitation will be allowed for all residents.

- Visits must be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of infection prevention and control, including reducing risk to other residents.
- We encourage visitors to monitor the number of visitors that are visiting at one time to help maintain physical distancing during the visit. If you desire to have a larger gathering at the nursing home, please contact the receptionist in advance, and we will attempt to arrange for a larger visitation area that can better accommodate the core infection prevention and control principles.
- We encourage visitors to maintain awareness of the number of visitors in the building and to conduct their visits in a manner that helps adhere to the core infection prevention and control principles, like physical distancing, and not place other residents at risk.
- Visitors must take the most direct route to/from the visit location and maintain physical distancing from other residents and staff.
- If your loved one has a roommate, we encourage the visit to occur outside of the resident room. If visits must occur in the resident's room for those residents with a roommate, we ask that you ensure the privacy curtain is closed for the duration of your visit and that you ensure that core infection prevention and control measures are maintained.
- If a resident is in **transmission-based precautions** (indicating they are suspected or confirmed for COVID-19), all visitors will be notified upon entry of the risks of visiting and the precautions necessary. Visits for residents in transmission-based precautions will only occur in the resident's room.
- When a nursing home onset case of COVID-19 is identified, Calvin Community will continue to have indoor visitation. All visitors will be notified upon entry of a potential COVID-19 outbreak and the potential risks of visiting. All visits will be conducted in the resident's room during an outbreak investigation and all visitors will be expected to maintain face coverings, regardless of vaccination status.
- Compassionate Care Visitation will be implemented if a resident is identified as being severely immunocompromised. During compassionate care visitation Calvin Community reserves the right to limit the number of visitors the resident is exposed to based on consultation with the resident or their representative.

Communal Dining, Activities and Resident Outings:

- Calvin Community will continue to follow CDC guidelines related to communal dining and activities. Current CDC guidelines can be located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

- Residents will be allowed to go on outings. Prior to the outing, the resident and the person transporting the resident on an outing will be educated about infection prevention and control measures to mitigate COVID-19.
- When the resident returns, they will be screened for signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to identify if they were possibly around someone with COVID-19. If the resident was possibly exposed to COVID-19 and is not fully vaccinated, they will be placed into quarantine and offered testing per CDC recommendations.
- In certain situations where uncertainty exists about the unvaccinated resident being exposed to COVID-19 (such as a large event like a wedding), Calvin Community may require the resident to quarantine upon return, regardless of duration of outing.
- Any unvaccinated resident leaving Calvin Community for longer than 24 hours will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return.

For the safety of all residents and visitors, Calvin Community strongly encourages all residents and visitors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you would like to be vaccinated, please reach out to a Calvin Community representative, and we can assist you with locating clinics to become vaccinated.

Please contact Crissy Link, Director of Nursing – Health Center or Juliana Cornick, Assistant Director of Nursing – Assisted Living if you have any questions regarding revised visitation, dining, activities, and resident outings.

Sincerely,

Carl Koedam

President/CEO