

CORONAVIRUS – COVID19

YKHC OFFICIAL ADVISORY — MARCH 12, 2021

YK Elders Home Visitation — Updated Guidelines

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 10 released an update to guidelines for visitors to long term care (LTC) facilities in reference to the recent wide-spread availability of COVID-19 vaccines. YKHC bases its policies on recommendations and guidance from CMS and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

YKHC will allow visitors at the YK Elders Home (aka LTC) according to the following conditions.

Visits are to be **scheduled at least 24 hours in advance** by appointment only with **visitors limited to one to two persons at a time** per resident.

This is to ensure that the YK Elder's Home and its residents, as well as visitors, can adhere to these **core principles** of infection prevention:

- **Screening** of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (for instance, temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (*regardless of the visitor's vaccination status*).
- **Hand hygiene** (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or **mask** (covering mouth and nose)
- **Social distancing** at least six feet between persons
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** frequently touched surfaces in the facility often, as well as designated visitation areas after each visit

To schedule a visit, please call 907-543-6780 and ask to speak with the charge nurse.

Outdoor/indoor visits allowed

YK Elder's Home prefers **outdoor visits** whenever practicable because the increased space and airflow poses a lower risk of transmission.

YK Elder's Home will allow **indoor visits**, *regardless of vaccination status*, at all times and for all residents, **except when there is a high risk of COVID-19 transmission**.

Exceptions include the following:

- **Unvaccinated residents**, if the local COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10%, **and** fewer 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.
- **Residents in quarantine**, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

YK Elder's Home shall accommodate and support indoor visitation as long as:

- Visitors can adhere to the core principles
- Staff is available to monitor those who may have difficulty adhering to core principles
- The total number of visitors allowed in the facility shall be limited based on the size of the building and physical space.
- Visits shall be scheduled for a specified length of time to ensure that all residents are able to receive visitors if they want.
- Movement of visitors within the facility shall be limited.

Indoor visitation policies and procedures may change based on the COVID-19 status within the facility (for example if the facility is having an outbreak).

YK Elder's Home and YKHC strongly encourage all visitors to be fully vaccinated and test for COVID-19 before their visit to keep their loved one, all residents, and staff safe from potential COVID-19 Infection.

Visitors can apply for a vaccination appointment online at www.ykhc.org/covid-19/vaccine or by calling 1-800-478-6599 for assistance in applying. Visitors can be tested at YK Elder's Home prior to visitation.

YK Elder's Home and YKHC requests that visitors coming from villages with high community spread and active outbreaks delay their visit for the safety of their loved

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one.