



June 9, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PERSONAL CARGIVERS IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

Dear Family Members,

As many of you know, recently legislation was passed that allows for Personal Caregiving and Compassionate Caregiving Visitors in Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) also known as Assisted Living.

We have developed policies on how this will be implemented at all of our skilled nursing facilities, and will be contacting the resident representative to establish who the personal caregivers will be, and going over the details of what to expect, how to prepare for your visits, what safety precautions you must take, and to answer any questions.

In the meantime, here is some additional information on what to expect:

Each resident will be entitled to have up to **two** individuals designated as personal or compassionate caregivers. These individuals will be able to visit during designated times, will have access to the resident in their rooms, and can perform very basic personal care tasks. Personal caregivers must be over 18 years of age.

Examples of what is considered by the State Department of Health as “personal caregiving” are tasks such as brushing hair, applying lotion, painting nails, and massages, taking for walks outdoors or reading to the residents.

Any direct care, such as bathing, toileting, dressing, providing food or fluids must still be performed by our clinical staff. If the caregiver has been previously trained to provide feeding support, it will be considered. Please consult with your nurse manager on next steps.

One-hour visits can take place 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Family members must follow our screening requirements by bringing a valid ID, checking in at our Accushield Kiosks before AND after each visit, get a printed badge to wear to the floor and must also confirm their arrival with the security team at the front desk. If your name does not appear on the personal caregiver list, you will not be able to go to the resident’s floor. Currently, visits are limited to one hour per day per caregiver, to ensure we can properly monitor the requirements and staff accordingly.

While vaccinations are not required, for the safety of your loved one, our other residents and our Loretto staff, it is **STRONGLY** encouraged. We also strongly encourage all visitors to be rapid tested prior to each visit, even if you are vaccinated. Given the increase in new strains and indications that even some of those who are vaccinated getting the COVID-19 virus, we ask you all to take this very seriously. We can easily test you prior to your arrival, please call in advance to schedule your test. Please call: 315-413-3639 to schedule in advance of your visit.



All visitors must follow our strict infection control protocols during visits, and will be required to wear masks and face shields at all times while in the building. Please use the disposable masks that are provided at check-in; cloth masks are not acceptable based on NYS Department of Health requirements. Also, you will be provided with protective eye wear upon your first visit. It is required that you bring this with you each time you visit; we will not be able to provide new protective eye wear each time. If you do not have this protective eye wear with you; you may not be able to visit at that time.

Anyone who does not follow these protocols, including wearing of masks and face shields or goggles, will be asked to leave the building and have future visitation restricted.

Please check in with the nurse manager or supervisor when you arrive at our resident's floor so the team knows you are in the unit. Social distancing is also still required. You may visit your loved one in a resident room only, or may take them outdoors weather permitting, but are not permitted to roam the unit or travel to different floors or areas of the building.

Residents MUST be accompanied at all times and cannot be left unattended for any reason. If your loved one is in a shared room, please continue to maintain proper distancing, and please respect the privacy of other residents at all times.

Other members of the family who are not designated as personal caregivers can also continue to visit our residents but must follow our standard visitation guidelines, including scheduling visitation appointments during general visitation hours and will visit in designated areas. You can view the current general visitation guidelines and schedule 30-minute appointments at: **lorettocny.org/LHRvisit**.

Open food and drinks are prohibited from visits based on the DOH guidelines; but packages can be provided to residents. While we still have pandemic restrictions in place, we ask that you do not bring in any unapproved personal items or remove clothing from your resident's rooms. Please consult with your administrator if you would like to bring personal items to the resident's room or have questions about laundry.

Please note that these visitation guidelines can change at any time, if there is an increase in positive cases in our facility or our community.

Please reach out to the facility Administrator, Courtney Lyon at: 315-413-3733 with any questions. Thank you for your continued cooperation, and we look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Joelle Margrey, Vice President, Skilled Nursing