

## **Palm Cottages Assisted Living & Memory Care**

### **Policy & Procedures – In-Person Visitation**

**Purpose:** In-Person Visitation bill has been signed into law, creating Chapter 408.823, which is subject “In-person visitation.” This policy and these and procedures are intended to serve as a sample for assisted living facilities to comply with the regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes. A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.

**Policy:** The following are the procedures to be followed to identify Essential Caregivers for residents and the expectations. These procedures will be administered equally to all residents that request to have an essential caregiver, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and transgender status), age, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Essential caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, needs cueing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life. Essential caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes. The provider must allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Palm Cottages, the 2-hour visitation will be between 8:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Palm Cottages may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the facility’s designee and the resident’s responsible party.

Palm Cottages will not be required or compelled to show or provide proof of vaccination or immunization.

#### **Procedure:**

##### **I. For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.**

1. Palm Cottages will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the facility’s essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure, with the initial licensure application, renewal application and/or change of ownership application.
2. Palm Cottages essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure is available on Palm Cottages homepage.
3. Palm Cottages will designate Executive Director as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.

4. Palm Cottages will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor and the space to accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.
  - a. Identify locations for visitation/care to occur planning for residents in shared spaces and facilities with minimal common space to identify maximum time availability.
  - b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or other covered areas that are protected from heat and sun, with cooling devices, if needed
  - c. Create indoor visitation spaces for residents in a room that is not accessible by other residents or in a resident's private room if the resident is bedbound and for health reasons cannot leave his or her room
5. All residents and/or POA/Guardian if appropriate will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver.
6. All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver upon move-in.
7. All residents will be allowed to update as requested the named Essential Caregiver of record within 2 business days of request.
8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:
  - a. End-of-life situations.
  - b. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in- person family support.
  - c. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
9. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
10. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
11. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
12. Palm Cottages is not required to provide for "facility-provided" pandemic testing if, and only if, it is based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance. The cost of this testing cannot be passed on to the visitor.
13. Essential caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per facility's Infection Control Policies. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers. At Palm Cottages the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
14. Any changes to Palm Cottages essential caregiver visitor policies must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregiver visitors.

**II. To facilitate visits by Essential caregiver visitors upon a request from a resident or friend/family member:**

1. The resident (or their representative) will read and sign the policy and procedures. The acknowledgement of the signature represents that the essential caregiver visitor will abide by the policies set forth in this document.
2. The essential caregiver visitor will complete training on Palm Cottages infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
3. The essential caregiver visitor must immediately inform the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24-hours of their last visit at the facility.
4. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Palm Cottages at the time the visitation scheduled is developed and agreed upon.
5. Physical contact is allowed between a resident and a visitor.

**III. When an essential caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit, the facility will:**

1. Palm Cottages will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, the date and time of entry, and the screening mechanism used, along with the screening employee's name and signature. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
2. Palm Cottages will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
3. will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. Palm Cottages will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor log.
5. Palm Cottages will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Palm Cottages shall restrict or revoke visitation.
7. In the event the essential caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to the individual not following the facility's policy and procedures, the resident may select a different essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Palm Cottages policies and procedures.