

June 29, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members, Friends, and or Responsible Persons,

Since Westmoreland County has been under 5% since May 25, 2021 which is considered “minimal to no community spread” and we have concluded Outbreak testing with no new cases we have decided to add some additional flexibility to our visitation procedures.

For all visits, there are certain core principles and best practices that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and will still remain in effect. The **core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention** include:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of about 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 COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required by regulations

Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit and will be asked to leave if these core principles are not followed during the visit. Our mission has always been to protect the most vulnerable, following these core principles enable us to do this.

St. Anne Home has updated visitation procedures, which are consistent with current guidelines and are as follows.

1. Outdoor visitation is still preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated\* against COVID-19. Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. Therefore, visits should be held outdoors whenever practicable.

2. Indoor visitation will be allowed for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission (note: compassionate care visits should be permitted at all times). These scenarios include limiting indoor visitation for:
  - Unvaccinated residents, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10% and less 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; or
  - Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine. Currently all new admissions that are not fully vaccinated\* are quarantined during the first 14 days after admission.
3. Indoor and outdoor visitation can occur at any time however it is preferred to have visits occur between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm when there are more staff available to help visitors screen in and out.
4. No more than two visitor at a time per resident will be permitted to visit in the resident's private room.
5. During indoor visitation, visitors will not be permitted to walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area, and go directly to the lobby to screen out at the end of their visit.
6. Visitors signing in and completing their entrance screening at the reception desk must maintain at least 6 feet distance from all other persons.
7. Visitors will no longer need to be escorted to the resident room or designated visitation area.
8. Visits for residents who share a room should not be conducted in the resident's room, if possible. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, we will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention listed above.
9. Physical distancing (maintaining at least 6 feet between people) continues to be the safest way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, particularly if either party has not been fully vaccinated. However, if the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.

10. If there is an outbreak (i.e. a new COVID-19 case (one case) among resident or staff) the above visitation procedures will change. When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, a St. Anne Home will immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation (except that required under federal disability rights law), until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed. Visitation can resume based on the specific criteria developed by CMS. Visitors will be notified about the potential for COVID-19 exposure in the facility (e.g., appropriate signage regarding current outbreaks), and adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including effective hand hygiene and use of face-coverings.
11. Visitors will, continue to be, no longer required to be tested as a condition of visitation. St. Anne Home has supply and capability to offer a rapid COVID-19 test for those visitors that are interested. The cost of this test is \$40.00. We encourage visitors to be tested when the Westmoreland County COVID-19 positivity rate is higher than 5%. Currently the 14-day positivity rate ending June 22, 2021 for Westmoreland County is 1.7%.
12. Per CMS recommendations, visitors will not be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 as a condition of visitation.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me and or Christy Kremer, Assistant Administrator with any questions or concerns you may have. Ann Donovan, Director of Nursing and Andy Porterfield, Infection Control Preventionist are also available to answer any questions or concerns related to residents in our **Nursing Facility** and Jennie Long and Christy Kremer are available to answer with any questions or concerns you may have related to residents living in **Villa Angela at St. Anne Home**. Our entire care team is here to serve you and answer your questions. Thank you for your continued support and confidence in the care and services St. Anne Home provides to you and or your loved one.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Long, NHA, MHA, MBA  
President and CEO

*\*Fully vaccinated refers to a person who is  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons.*