

Advent Square

Senior Living in a Caring Community

Policy Name: In-Person Visitation aka “No Patient Left Alone

Effective Date: May 6, 2022

Attachment: A) Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988

B) Essential Caregiver Designation Form

C) Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

Purpose

The In-Person Visitation bill aka “No Patient Left Alone” has been signed into law in the state of Florida allowing a resident to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. This policy sets forth the procedure to identify an Essential Caregiver. This policy applies equally to all residents that request to have an Essential Caregiver without regard to race, color, religion, gender (including gender identity and transgender status), age, national origin, disability or veteran status. Advent Square’s Essential Caregiver policy is available on the facility webpage. The Advent Square Director, with support from the ALF Nurse Manager, is responsible for infection prevention and control training.

Policy

Advent Square will evaluate the number of visitors in the ALF, and if necessary will limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the Community based on the ability to provide an environment that allows for the adherence to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase the risk to other residents.

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 at the end – of – life. Residents may decline to appoint an Essential Caregiver and may refuse visits.

In the event that general visiting is curtailed, Essential caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes. Providers are required to allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Advent Square, the 2-hour visitation will be between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm. Advent Square 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 Director or designee and the resident’s responsible party.

Indoor visits, visitor movement in the facility will be limited to the Resident’s room or designated visit location.

Outdoor visits can be accommodated in the covered atrium and the covered “sidewalks” in the community. Fans will be provided if necessary.

All residents and/or POA/Guardian, when appropriate, will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver.

All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver upon move-in. All residents will be allowed to update, in writing, the named Essential Caregiver of record. The change will be accommodated in no greater than 2 business days.

Procedures

1. Essential Caregiver visitors must sign in and out of the visitor log at the nurse's station
2. No more than one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
3. The guide need **NOT** prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will likely require a higher level of PPE than standard surgical masks. The general visitation requirement that the Community has no new Community-onset cases of a communicable disease (for example COVID-19) is not applicable to visitation by essential caregiver visitors.
4. Essential Caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per Community's Infection Control Policies. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance.
5. Any changes to Essential Caregiver visitor procedure must be promptly communicated to affected residents and Essential Caregiver visitors.
7. The resident (or their representative) will read and sign the standard operating procedures. An Essential Visitor Designation form will be completed and signed. The signed Essential Visitor Acknowledgement form represents that the Essential Caregiver Visitor will abide by the standard operating procedures set forth in this document.
 - a. The Essential Caregiver visitor will complete training on infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, including masks that cover mouth and nose, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
 - b. The Essential Caregiver visitor must immediately inform the Community if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24-hours of their last visit at the Community.
8. Advent Square will thoroughly screen the visitor per the Community's infection control standard procedures and document the name of the individual, the date and time of entry. If the visitor fails the screening, the visitor **CANNOT** be allowed entry.
9. Advent Square will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
10. Advent Square will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
11. Advent Square will monitor the Essential Caregiver visitor's adherence to all guidelines.
12. If the Essential Caregiver visitor fails to follow the Community's infection prevention and control requirements after attempts to mitigate concerns, the Community shall restrict or revoke visitation.
13. In the event the Essential Caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to the individual not following the Community's procedures, the resident may select a different Essential Caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Advent Square' procedures.