



46 Brookmeade Drive
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BrookmeadeCommunity.org

RE: NYS DOH Health Advisory: Skilled Nursing Facility Visitation

September 15, 2020

Dear Meadows' Family and Friends,

The NYS DOH has issued revised guidance this afternoon about nursing home visitation. There are also articles circulating; "NY eases COVID-19 visitation rules... NY eases COVID visitation rules" that may appear that the visitation process is less restrictive.

We are in the process of digesting the guidance and will update our procedures accordingly.

It is reported that under the current visitation restrictions, about 77% of the facilities were unable to allow visits under the 28-days rules.

We have been part of the handful of facilities that have been able to permit outdoor/vehicle visitation meeting all the restrictive requirements as ordered by NYS DOH and/or The Governors offices since visitation was permitted.

At this time, changing the 28 days rule to 14 days has no impact on the visitation procedure (unless we have a positive case).

The revised "eased" guidance now requires visitors to present a verified negative COVID test result within the last seven days, and if not presented, the facility has the right to refuse visitation. We are seeking guidance on this requirement.

The guidance reads that "Visitation should be limited to outdoor areas, weather permitting and in certain circumstances in an inside well ventilated space..." We are seeking guidance on what the definition of "well ventilated" space means. Certain circumstance is clarified as "Medically necessary or End-of-Life services".

All the requirements are in place and at this time our visitation protocol remains the same (with exception to the areas we are seeking clarification on).

I will keep you updated. We will continue to advocate on behalf of our residents and loved ones.

Please, if you have any comments, email info@brookmeadecommunity.org

Thank you for all your support of Brookmeade. We are hopeful that changes provide more flexibility with visitation. We will continue to strongly advocate and be a voice for our residents and families and will work with our partners in political office. Our Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro and NYS Senator Sue Serino have been instrumental and we thank them for their continued efforts.

Stay safe,

Karen Zobel, LCSW, LNHA
CEO/Administrator