



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home

October 13th, 2021

Dear Resident, Resident Representative and Staff

SDVH currently has (0) **zero** active cases of COVID-19 in residents and (3) **active** cases in staff.

Most recent case in staff is 10.12.21 -- This resets our outbreak status date, based on the date the positive staff was last in facility our soonest release from outbreak status is now October 27th.

Depending on the risk assessment to the household where staff worked based on contact tracing some households during outbreak status are on quarantine due to potential exposure. Length of the quarantines for households will depend on the risk of exposure from the positive case and if further cases arise in those areas.

For nursing care households (JF/Custer, SS/NASA, Vets Lane/OG) during outbreak status Outings remain suspended, furlough is allowed but resident may be required to quarantine upon return.

RLS residents as of October 4th will be allowed to submit outing requests and if outing is identified as low risk it may be allowed depending on risk assessment, submit your outing request to your RCC.

Individual visits from the Chaplain are available upon request if you would like to partake in communion or visit from Chaplain - please alert your nurse.

If you have any questions regarding your loved one's care, please call their Resident Care Coordinator at 605-745-5127 extension:

Nasa and Stars & Stripes – Natalie Hooper – 1500229
Custer and Joe Foss – Natalie Hooper – 1500229

Veterans Lane and Old Glory – Jenny Hayashi – 1500444
South Pacific and JASCO – Susan Stava – 1500506

Per CMS and DOH guidelines, **indoor** scheduled visits have been suspended until further notice due to the positive case in the facility. In person church services and group activities are also suspended until further notice.

Reminder on how to access updates for SVH- below process has been in place since 05/11/2020

“The facility must inform residents and/or their representatives by 5:00pm the next calendar day following the occurrence of either: a single confirmed infection of COVID-19; or three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms that occur within 72 hours of each other.”

These updates are available by calling 605-745-5127 and pressing option 9.

We continue to follow all precautions based on state and federal guidelines as well as CDC and DOH recommendations to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can call administration at 605-745-5127 ext.1500116 or Rachelle Infection Preventionist at 605-745-5127 ext. 1500339 regarding questions about COVID-19 and the facility.

Sincerely, SVH Leadership Team

Outdoor Scheduled Visits

(During Poor Weather the Lobby will be setup as backup location)

- Visitation hours are as follows and each visit lasts 1 hour.
 - o Monday-Friday at 9:45am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:45pm.
 - Saturdays at 9:30am, 10:45am, 1:00pm, 2:15pm and 3:30pm
 - Sundays at 1:00pm, 2:15pm and 3:30pm

- Visitation must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance.
 - o Please plan accordingly.
 - You can schedule an appointment during normal business hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm by calling 605-745-5127 x1500116 at least 24 hours in advance. *Note: this phone is not monitored outside of those hours, calls will be returned the next BUSINESS DAY.*
- Sunday visits must be scheduled by 4:00pm on Fridays.

**These restrictions do not apply to those residents placed on end-of-life comfort cares or for compassionate care visitors, if you have questions regarding end-of-life comfort cares please contact your loved one's nurse.*

VISITOR GUIDELINES

- Outdoor visits at this time must maintain 6 ft social distancing at all times.
- Only two (2) visitors at a time per resident.
- Visit duration is 60 minutes
- Visitor(s) must wear a face covering or face mask during the entire visit. Please bring your own face mask if you have one. If you do not have a face mask, the facility will supply you with one upon arrival.
 - o Please note this means you may **not** eat with the resident.
- Visitor(s) must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visits.
- Visitor(s) will be escorted to outdoor visitation gazebo and monitored by SVH Staff
- Visitor(s) must remain in designated outdoor visitation area at all times
- Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and the child(ren) must be able to wear a face mask.
- Visitor(s) must sign in and provide contact information at the kiosk in front entrance.
- Visitor(s) must not have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever at time of visit).
- Visitor(s) may bring single serving, commercially packaged food items to residents during visits. This includes carry out items from local restaurants (still in restaurant packaging, candy bars, pre-packaged muffin from store, etc.).
 - o Visitors are NOT allowed to eat with resident as masking for visitor is required at ALL times
- Restrooms will be available in main lobby. Only one individual may be in the restroom at a time. We highly encourage using the restroom prior to arriving at the facility.

PLEASE NOTE: The availability of these visits is subject to change at any time based on recommendations from local, state and national officials and or change in cases within SVH, you would receive notification from SVH to cancel/reschedule the visit. Some rescheduled visits may be reduced to 30 minutes to accommodate all those needing to reschedule.