



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home

Dear Resident and or Resident Representative

We are very excited to share that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has updated guidance on visitation during the COVID pandemic. Visitations at SVH no longer have to be scheduled. Visitation hours are listed with the visitation guidelines on back page of this letter, and we ask that you review those carefully. It is still very important that we maintain infection prevention practices at SVH as we continue through the covid pandemic in order to ensure safety for our residents, staff and community.

What can a visitor expect upon arrival for a visit?

1. Use hand sanitizer at front entrance and place a face mask on, if not already wearing one
2. Sign in and complete screening via our KIOSK (Place Visitor Badge in a Visible Location On Clothing)
3. Follow Signage to Call for a staff to escort you to your family or friend's room
4. Stay in the room for duration of visit and use call light if you have any questions or needs from a staff member
5. When you are ready to leave please use call light to alert staff that you are ready to be escorted out of the building
6. Sign Out on Kiosk as you exit the building and use hand sanitizer 😊

All visits must follow the core principles of infection prevention per CMS as listed below

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine, should not enter the facility. Facilities should screen all who enter for these visitation exclusions.
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face mask (covering mouth and nose)
- Physical distancing at least six feet between people, in accordance with CDC guidance
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices
- 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 to COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required per CMS guidelines

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 regarding questions about COVID-19 and the facility.

Sincerely, SVH Leadership Team

605.745.5127 | stateveteranshome.sd.gov
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Visitation is available 7 days a week -- Normal visiting hours are 8am-10pm

If you would like to visit outside of these hours, please contact facility to setup alternate time.

Per CMS: "visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents"

VISITOR GUIDELINES

- 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.
- Visitor(s) must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visits.
- Visitor(s) will be escorted to and from resident room- remain in residents' room for duration of visit.
- Visitors with children must be able to manage them, & 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.).
 - Visitors are allowed to have their masks OFF while in the resident's room IF the resident and visitor are BOTH Fully Vaccinated against COVID
- Physical contact – below is the exact guideline from CMS:
 - "We also acknowledge that there is no substitute for physical contact, such as the warm embrace between a resident and their loved one. Therefore, if the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility."
- Restrooms will be available in main lobby- we encourage visitors to use main lobby restroom before going to resident's room
 - If you need to use the restroom once on the household, please alert staff (use call light) – there is a public restroom available on household but staff will have to unlock the household public bathroom.
- We highly recommend that visitors (if eligible) are vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to visiting.
- We highly recommend that visitors be tested for COVID before coming to the facility (e.g., within 2–3 days).
- Pet Visit -Vaccinated, potty trained pet may be brought for a visit to specific resident's room. One pet at a time. Must be manageable and on a leash.

The safety and well-being of our residents and staff remains our top priority, we ask that you have reviewed visit guidelines carefully.

PLEASE NOTE: The availability of these visits is subject to change at any time based on recommendations from local, state and national officials. If a case of COVID-19 were to occur at the home visits will still be allowed but visitors must keep their face mask on at ALL times regardless of vaccination status IF the facility is in outbreak status.

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

For most current COVID status updates for SVH please call 605-745-5127 and press option 9