



Department of Veterans Affairs
Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home
2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone 605.745.5127
Fax 605.745.5547

June 18th, 2020

Dear Resident and/or Resident Representative,

At the State Veterans Home, we recognize the COVID-19 pandemic will remain a concern to residents and staff in long term until there is a vaccine and/or additional courses of treatment. The home will continue to adapt to this new normal in order to keep residents engaged physically, emotionally, and socially. Specifically, we understand that residents need to be able to visit with their families as well as each other. Throughout this pandemic, the home has been using new ways to connect residents with their loved ones remotely, such as skype, facetime, etc. As the home continues to adapt to changing circumstances it is time to use additional, innovative methods to reconnect residents with the things they love to do and the people they love to see. The home will continue to use an infection prevention mindset as we offer innovative methods of keeping residents connected.

Things to be aware of regarding COVID19:

- Upwards of half the people infected with this virus and are infectious do not have any symptoms.
- The virus spreads from small droplets created by talking and can be increased in number by more forceful exhaling such as coughing, sneezing, singing, or yelling. Hence the importance of both source control masks and keeping one's distance from others.
- The virus may spread from surfaces often from one's hands to others or to yourself after touching surfaces with the virus on them.
- Decontaminating surfaces frequently touched by others or potentially exposed to the virus is an important way to limit the potential spread.

The Infection Prevention Mindset is followed at the home in order to reduce the risk of spread.

- Screening of all staff and residents for signs of illness
- Exercising proper and frequent hand hygiene
- Covering mouth and nose with a cloth face covering for visitors, surgical masks for healthcare personnel
- Practicing social distancing (at least 6 feet away from others)
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Posting clear signage that encourages social distancing and denotes that visitors who violate social distancing and infection prevention strategies may be asked to leave and may be denied future access until willing to comply with safety measures.

Updates.

- **Effective June 29th Scheduled & Monitored** outside open window visits will be available;
 - Two (2) family members and/or friends can visit at a time and they **MUST** be scheduled through social worker and be monitored. (monitors must ensure that 6ft distance is kept between visitor and resident – max time for visit 30 minutes)
 - Social worker (Anita 605-745-5127 x 1500331) or (Amanda 605.745.5127 x 1500118) must be contacted in order to schedule visit (visitation available Monday-Friday 9-11 & 1-3, we apologize for any inconvenience, the home is not able to offer the evening or weekend visits)
 - Covered porch area outside of the main doors window visit will be available
 - Window will be opened; resident will be inside building at window and visitor will be outside under covered porch at other side of open window (CDC and SD Dept of Health guidance: no touching/hugging/handshakes/visitors are not to bring any items for resident)

Sincerely,
Rachelle, RN/Infection Preventionist



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Visitor Guidelines

Visitation will be restricted to visitors who meet the following criteria

- Only 2 visitors at a time.
- Visit duration is 30 minutes. (Note restroom will **not** be available to visitor during visit)
- Must wear a face covering or face mask during the entire visitation. Please bring your own facemask if you have one, if you do not have one the facility will supply you with one upon arrival.
- Must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visitation.
- Must stay in designated facility location. (Visitor remains outside of building)
- Visitation is restricted to children 12 years of age or older. Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and children must be able to wear a face mask during the entire visitation.
- Visitor must sign in and provide contact information.
- Must not have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (includes temp screening at time of visit); visitors must also attest to their COVID status (testing results) and if they have had COVID-19, they must provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note) that they no longer meet CDC criteria for transmission-based precautions.

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 COVID19 were to occur at the home and/or if case status changes in Fall River County these visits may be halted.