

INTERIM GUIDANCE: PHASED REOPENING – COVID-19 OUTDOOR RESIDENT VISITATIONS

Kline Galland's main focus is to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, to provide guidance regarding outdoor visitations for residents of Long-Term Care/Skilled Nursing facility per "phased reopening" plan as initiated by Washington State Department of Health.

- I. Visitors from outside the facility shall be permitted to visit with residents upon facility implementation, and only with given explicit permission of governing bodies such as Centers for Disease Control, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Department of Social Health and Service, and Seattle King County Public Health,
 - a. Identification of current phase shall be directed by the Washington State Governor's office and Seattle King County Public Health.
 - b. Visitation environment and allowable activities shall be directed by WA DSHS Phase 1-4 in long-term care.
- II. Visitation shall only be permitted if the facility has adequate resources to facilitate visits. Resources can include (but are not limited to) the following –
 - a. Available staff for visit supervision.
 - b. An adequate supply of necessary items including disinfectant for visitation areas such as alcohol-based hand sanitizer, appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - c. No Covid-19 activity in all staff and residents of the facility within the last 28 days as defined by Seattle King County Public Health.
- III. Visits shall be scheduled with Social Services/Nursing departments and be logged with visitor's contact information. Other criteria for visitation include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Per WA DOH guidance, visitors shall be allowed no more than 2 visitors per day and no more than 30 minutes in duration.
 - b. As reasonable, 1 visitor at a time is recommended, and be up for case by case consideration per Social Services/Nursing teams for 2 visitors at a time.
 - c. Visits shall occur within established visiting hours which are subject to change at the Facility's discretion.
 - d. Visitors who bring children under the age of 12 shall be responsible for supervising the children and ensure they comply with hand hygiene, masking, and social distancing requirements.
 - e. Visits shall only occur when there are no weather warnings that would put either the visitor or resident/client at risk.
- IV. Visitors wishing to visit with residents of the facility shall be screened at a location outside of the facility for the following:
 - a. No Covid-19 symptoms such as sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, GI upset, etc. (for full list see CDC guidance) within the last 14 days leading up to the scheduled visit.
 - b. Ability and willingness to wear a facemask while visiting with resident during the entire stay of the visit.
 - c. Ability and willingness to follow social distancing protocols of 6 feet from the resident and/or staff.
 - d. Ability to refrain from physical contact such as hugging, kissing, holding hands, etc.
 - e. Ability and willingness to stay in designated outdoor visitation area.
 - f. Ability and willingness to properly use alcohol based hand sanitizer before and after visit with resident.
- V. Residents that are eligible for outdoor visits must meet the below criteria:
 - a. Residents must not possess any "quarantine" status from Droplet/Contact precautions.
 - b. Residents must be able to tolerate transport to and from the outdoor visiting area.
 - c. Residents must be able/willing to tolerate a facemask through the duration of the visit.
- VI. During outdoor visitation, staff shall:
 - a. Provide visual supervision to ensure that social distancing measures are followed, PPE (mask and Plexiglass or faceshield) is being worn properly on both visitor and resident while allowing for privacy of the visit.
 - b. Ensure that visitors will not be traveling through the facility to reach designated outdoor visitation area.
- VII. Visitation denials can occur if the facility believes that:
 - a. Circumstances exist that pose a risk of transmitting Covid-19 in the facility due to either resident or visitor being unable/unwilling to comply with infection control guidance.
 - b. The resident/client or visitor is at risk for harm.

Sources:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/HealthcareProviders/LongTermCareFacilities>