

Weinberg Village

Essential Caregiver Policy

Purpose

In-Person Visitation bill has been signed into law, creating Chapter 408.823, which is subject “In-person visitation.” This policy and these procedures are intended to comply with the regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes. A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.

Policy

The following are the procedures to be followed to identify Essential Caregivers for residents and the expectations. These procedures will be administered equally to all residents that request to have an essential caregiver, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and transgender status), age, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Essential caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, needs cueing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life. Essential caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes. The provider must allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Weinberg Village the visitation will be between 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Weinberg Village may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case by case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be discussed and agreed upon in Writing by the facility’s designee and the resident’s responsible party.

Procedures:

- I. **For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.**
 - a. Weinberg Village will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the facility’s essential caregiver’s policy and procedure, with the initial licensure application, renewal application and/or change of ownership application.
 - b. Weinberg Village’s essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure is available on <https://weinbergvillage.org> homepage.
 - c. Weinberg Village will designate Suzanne Dai, DON, RN as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
 - d. Weinberg Village will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the space to accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.
 - e. All current residents and/or POA/Guardian if appropriate will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver.
 - f. New residents will be asked if they would like to identify an Essential Caregiver of record within 2 business days of request.

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- g. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - i. End-of-life situations.
 - ii. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 - iii. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - iv. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - v. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 - vi. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
 - h. All visitors must sign in and out at the front desk.
 - i. No more than one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident.
 - j. The policy does NOT prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits, if the specified resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will require a higher level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) than standard surgical masks. The general visitation requirement that the facility has no new facility-onset cases of a communicable disease (for example COVID-19) is not applicable to visitation by essential caregiver visitors.
 - k. Weinberg Village is not required to provide for "facility-provided" COVID-19 testing if, and only if, it is based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance. The cost of this testing cannot be passed on to the visitor.
 - l. Essential caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per facility's Infection Control Policies. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers. At Weinberg Village the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
 - m. Any changes to Weinberg Village's Essential Caregiver Visitor policies must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregiver visitors.
- II. To facilitate visits by essential caregiver visitors upon a request from a resident or friend/family member:
- a. The resident (or their representative) will read and sign the policy and procedures. The acknowledgement of the signature represents that the essential caregiver visitor will abide by the policies set forth in this document.
 - b. The essential caregiver visitor must immediately inform the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24-hours of their last visit at the facility.
 - c. Essential caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Weinberg Village.

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- III. When an essential caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit:
- a. Weinberg Village will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, date and time of entry, screening mechanism used and signature of visitor. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
 - b. Weinberg Village will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
 - c. Weinberg Village will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
 - d. Weinberg Village will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
 - e. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Weinberg Village shall restrict or revoke visitation.
 - f. In the event the essential caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to the individual not following the facility's policy and procedures, the resident may select a different essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Weinberg Village's policies and procedures.

Essential Caregivers Designation

I, _____ designate _____ as the Essential Caregiver for _____. I consent and understand that:

- Visits by essential caregivers are subject to Weinberg Village’s policies and procedures and ability to screen visitors and monitor visits.
- All essential caregiver visits may be scheduled, based on current facility conditions and are at will be set for a minimum of 2 hours daily.
- Limited to one visitor at a time, and are limited to designated areas only. (Please speak with the Administrator regarding possible exceptions for end-of-life situations)
- _____ (resident) has the ability to object to a visit at any time, even under the following circumstances:
 1. End-of-life situations.
 2. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
 4. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 6. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
- Essential caregivers will need to follow the facility’s infection control and education policies and procedures and agree to such. At no time will they be more stringent than those for staff and at no time require to submit proof of vaccination.
- Essential caregivers must sign an acknowledgement of completion of required trainings and adherence to infection prevention and control policies.
- Visits by a specific essential caregiver may be suspended for failure to follow infection prevention and control requirements or other related rules of Weinberg Village. At that time the resident or resident’s representative can designate a new essential caregiver.

Resident or Legal Representative Signature Date

Resident or Legal Representative Printed Name

Facility Representative Signature Date

Facility Representative Printed Name

Essential Caregivers Acknowledgement

I _____ accept the designation as an essential caregiver for
_____.

- My visits as an essential caregiver are subject to Weinberg Village’s infection control and education policies and procedures. I acknowledge receiving the policies and procedures and agree to abide by them at all times.
- My visits as an essential caregiver may be scheduled, and may be no less than two hours per day.
- Essential caregiver visits cannot occur if the resident personally objects/declines your visit no matter the circumstance per 408.823 of F.S. “(c) The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:

1. *End-of-life* situations. 2. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support. 3. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions. 4. A resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died. 5. A resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver. 6. A resident that used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking. “
- When visiting as an essential caregiver, I will utilize personal protective equipment (PPE) as determined by facility policies and procedures related to current facility status and current medical condition of _____.
- I acknowledge having received training on infection prevention and control, use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing. I am satisfied with the training provided and do not have any questions regarding any of these topics.
- I acknowledge my obligation and agree to immediately notify Weinberg Village if I experience symptoms of a respiratory infection, cough, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, symptoms possibly related to a contagious infection, or if I test positive for COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of a visit.
- Visits by essential caregivers may be restricted or revoked for failure to follow infection prevention and control procedures of Weinberg Village.

Designated Essential Caregiver Signature

Date

Designated Essential Caregiver Printed Name

Facility Representative Signature

Date

Facility Representative Printed Name