



THE VILLAGE AT  
**AUGSBURG**  
A National Lutheran Community

Date: October 2, 2020  
To: Assisted Living & Skilled Nursing  
Residents and Families  
From: Cyndi Walters, Interim Executive  
Director  
Subject: Path Forward Community Update

As many of you have heard, Governor Hogan has opened up indoor visitation for Maryland skilled nursing facilities if they have not had an active case of COVID-19 in 14 days.

We are thrilled that Augsburg meets this criteria and are excited to begin welcoming family members back in our building. With that said, our very first priority remains the health and safety of residents and team members, especially as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise in our region. Our team at Augsburg and at National Lutheran Communities & Services is working to define policies and procedures around indoor visitation and we will have more information available next week. It will take a lot of coordination for our team and cooperation from families to ensure our community stays free from COVID-19, which ultimately allows us to continue offering indoor visitation.

Below are general guidelines we will be using as we implement indoor visitation policies and procedures for skilled nursing and assisted living.

#### **What does “indoor visitation” during COVID-19 look like?**

- To start having indoor visitors, the community must have had NO new onset COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and not be currently conducting outbreak testing. Also, the county positivity rates must be in the “low” or “medium” categories. Communities in counties with high positivity rates cannot conduct indoor visitation, except in compassionate care (end of life) situations.
- Visitors MUST comply with and adhere to the core principles of infection control. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has stated, and reiterated, the incredible importance of this. Community staff are required to monitor if visitors are following these principles and will ask visitors to leave if they are having difficulty adhering.
- Communities must limit the number of visitors per resident, as well as the number of visitors in the building at any given time. This means communities might schedule visits at certain times and days and limit the length of time a family member or loved one can visit.
- Communities must limit the movement of visitors in the building. A visitor cannot walk around the building in areas where they will not be visiting a resident. The community will direct visitors on the appropriate route to visit with their loved one, and visitors must follow all of these directions, signage, etc.
- Visits will be in specific, designated areas. It is important to know that if your loved one is in a semi-private room with a roommate, communities are not allowed to have visitors in the resident’s room.

# MEMORANDUM

### What *minimum* restrictions will visitors need to follow to visit safely?

- Completing a screening before entering the building. All visitors will be screened before entering the community. You will have your temperature taken and will be required to answer questions about symptoms, travel, and other potential exposures you may have had to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Hand washing. Visitors should practice hand hygiene before visiting. You will be asked to use alcohol-based hand rub or wash your hands with soap and water prior to being permitted entry to the community.
- Wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) during entire visit. Mask wearing remains one of the best tools we have to stop the spread of COVID-19. Masks protect others from you, as well as you from others. Visitors will be required to wear masks and may also be required to wear other PPE.
- Social distancing during the entire visit. We recognize the challenge of not being able to physically touch our loved ones. However, it is imperative that visitors follow strict social distancing restrictions and remain safely more than 6 feet from their loved one, at all times.

As we prepare for indoor visits, we are still offering outdoor visits which can be scheduled at:

Assisted living: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/assistedlivingcourtyard>

Skilled nursing: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/tvaafamilysignup>

All our Path Forward updates can be found on our website at:

<https://www.thevillageataugsburg.org/pathforward>.

We remain grateful for your support and hope you are staying well.