



November 3, 2020

Congregate living settings have been severely impacted by COVID-19, with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity, and mortality. The vulnerable nature of our persons served, combined with the inherent risks of congregate living settings, have required aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within congregate living facilities. We believe the information below represents reasonable guidelines for our facility to determine safe visitations standards.

Lakemary Center will monitor and use many resources to understand the level of COVID-19 risk, such as rates of COVID-19-Like Illnesses, numbers of visits to local emergency departments, local hospital capacities, or the positivity rate of a county or counties adjacent to the county where the PRTF or Group home is located. Visitations will not occur if there are active cases on campus, or during periods of quarantine/isolation on campus.

Along with other factors listed above, Lakemary Center will use the COVID-19 area positivity rate, found on the KDHE Data site "Nursing Home Metrics" (<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/160/COVID-19-in-Kansas>) as a guide for information to determine how to facilitate visitation:

- Low (<5% - "**Green**") = Visitation off campus is allowed. While in the community, families should adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention policies outlined by the CDC.
- Medium (5% to 10% - "**Yellow**") = Only On-Site visitation by appointment should occur. Families may call to schedule an appointment to visit residents on campus. Adherence to COVID-19 infection prevention policies as outlined by the CDC is required. Masks are required on campus.
- High (>10% - "**Red**") = No off-site or on-site visits are allowed. Visitation should only occur via Video/FaceTime.

CMS/CDC guidelines state that *“Visitor Testing, while not required, is encouraged in facilities in medium or high-positivity counties to test visitors, if feasible. If so, facilities should prioritize visitors that visit regularly (e.g., weekly), although any visitor can be tested. Facilities may also encourage visitors to be tested on their own prior to coming to the facility (e.g., within 2–3 days) with proof of negative test results and date of test.”* Though Lakemary has not required testing of visitors prior to visits, this may be considered in the future to ensure safe visits with our resident population.





Where Children and Adults Reach Beyond Their Disabilities

While we must remain steadfast in our fight to shield our vulnerable patient population from COVID-19, we understand that prolonged isolation and separation from family is taking a toll on our residents as well. We take the mental well-being of our persons served very seriously. Through continuation of our infection control procedures, coupled with the partnering with our parents and families to help us with infection control support in the community, we hope that these guidelines ensure the protection of our residents and staff, and allow for safe visitation with our persons served.

Sincerely,

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