+ Policies and Procedures Manual

Policy: Designated Essential Visitor – COVID-19

Policy

LifeStream's Communities ("Community" or "Communities") will implement policies and procedures that provide Residents the opportunity to select Designated Essential Visitors, as defined by the Arizona Department of Health Services. The policy is effective on October 1, 2020.

Definitions

- *Associates – unless otherwise designated by levels of care or based on licensure by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the term "Associates" will be used to describe all staff members who are directly employed by LifeStream Complete Senior Living or who are employed by a third-party contract but act in the capacity of a LifeStream staff member.*
- *Community or Communities - In all cases, the use of the terms "Community" or "Communities" refers to LifeStream operations and does not include communities-at-large (such as cities, counties or states) unless expressly stated.*
- *Designated Essential Visitor ("DEV") – refers to the individual(s) identified by a Resident to serve in the capacity of an "essential visitor."*
- *Outbreak – for the purposes of determining testing frequency, an outbreak is defined as one or more confirmed COVID-19 cases among Residents or Associates with onsets within 14 days.*
- *Residents – unless otherwise designated, the term "Residents" will generally refer to LifeStream Residents living in a licensed community (Assisted Living or Skilled Nursing). The term generally does NOT apply to those Residents living in Independent Living.*
- *Types of tests – two types of tests are described herein:*
    - *PCR Test ("PCR") – in most cases, a PCR test is conducted using a nasal or throat swab and is processed by an outside laboratory (also referred to as "lab"). For the purposes of this policy, a saliva test by a licensed laboratory will be considered to be equivalent to a PCR Test.*
    - *Rapid Point of Care Test ("POC") – also referred to as an Antigen test, refers to a rapid test that is conducted onsite at the Community or in other healthcare settings with the supplies and device to process a rapid test. For the purposes of this policy, the rapid POC test will only be acceptable when it is expressly stated that an antigen test is sufficient to fulfill the requirement.*

Policy Explanation and Compliance Guidelines

1. Residents may designate up to two individuals to serve as Designated Essential Visitors.

2. DEVs must be at least 18 years of age.
3. LifeStream Communities will implement policies and procedures that allow for the DEV to visit at any time during visiting hours established by the Community, or in the event of an emergency related to the Resident. The visiting hours will be during times when staff is available to screen visitors and that will allow for cleaning and sanitizing of the visitation spaces.

Required Testing of the Designated Essential Visitor

1. At the time of the first visit, DEVs must provide documentation of a negative test for COVID-19 (either PCR or Antigen) that was collected within the preceding 48 hours.
2. DEVs must continue to provide documentation of a negative test for COVID-19 (either PCR or Antigen) on the same interval required for staff at the Community. For example, if the staff at the Community is being tested weekly, the DEV must provide documentation on a weekly basis.
3. If the DEV has tested positive for and recovered from COVID-19 (as defined by Maricopa County Public Health) within the last 90 days, a negative COVID-19 test is not required. A copy of the positive results dated within the last 90 days must be presented upon arrival for the visit. If the positive result was previous to the last 90 days, the DEV must be tested in accordance with the LifeStream policy.
4. The Community will use the Maricopa County COVID-19 positivity rate as of the most current date posted at https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-community to determine staff testing frequency. In the event of an Outbreak, the testing frequency will be no less than weekly (every 3 to 7 days).
5. Associates will be tested at intervals as follows:

COVID-19 Testing Indicator

Positivity Level	County-Reported COVID-19 Positivity Rate	Resident/Associate Testing Frequency
LOW (GREEN)	Less than 5%	Once per month
MEDIUM (YELLOW)	Between 5-10%	Once per week
HIGH (RED)	Greater than 10%	Twice per week
OUTBREAK	N/A	Weekly

6. The Community will monitor the Maricopa County positivity rate every Friday and adjust the frequency of performing staff testing according to the testing intervals as outlined above. (Note: If Friday is a holiday, positivity rate will be checked on the next business day).
   a. If the County positivity rate increases to a higher level of activity, the Community will begin testing Associates at the frequency of the intervals as outlined above, as soon as the criteria for the higher activity are met.

b. If the County positivity rate decreases to a lower level of activity, the Community will continue testing Associates at the higher activity level until the County positivity rate has remained at the lower activity level for at least two weeks before reducing the testing frequency.

c. If the Community is experiencing a temporary outbreak of COVID-19 cases, the testing frequency will be no less than weekly (every 3 to 7 days) – and will override the testing frequency defined by the County positivity rates noted above.

7. The Community will notify DEVs of a change in the required testing frequency as soon as possible.

Change of Designated Essential Visitor

1. The Resident may change the DEV no more than one time per month. Any newly designated DEV must comply with all requirements of this policy.

2. A change to the DEV will be communicated on the Designated Essential Visitor Designation form.

3. If the DEV is anticipated to be unavailable for an extended period of time due to extended travel, illness or other extenuating circumstances, the Community may allow for the Resident to appoint an alternate DEV at the discretion of the Community Executive Director.

Other Requirements for Designated Essential Visitors

1. Only the DEV may visit in accordance with this policy. All other visitors must comply with guidance provided in Policy: Visitation Policy for Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living During COVID-19.

2. The DEV must sign an attestation that states they will avoid attending large gatherings in between testing and visitation.

3. The DEV must sign and attest to the Community's health screening questionnaire, including submitting to a temperature check.

4. The DEV must wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at the same level and in the same manner as the Community staff. PPE may include mask, eye protection and gowns. If possible, the DEV should provide their own PPE. If requested, PPE will be provided by the Community for the DEV.

5. The DEV will sanitize their hands upon entering the Community and both before and after entering the Resident's living spaces and/or the designated visiting area.

6. The DEV is NOT prohibited from having physical contact with, or required to maintain physical distance from, the Resident. However, the DEV is advised that COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Limiting contact is considered a best practice for reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

7. Staff will maintain a reasonable distance during visitation to allow for an adequate degree of privacy for the DEV and the Resident.

8. If the Resident has private accommodations, the entirety of the visit may take place in the Resident's accommodations. If the Resident has a roommate, the DEV shall not enter the room while the roommate is present and the visit will be limited to 15 minutes. If the Resident is not able to leave the room due to their health status or condition, provisions will be made to visit in the room. If the roommate is present for any portion of the visit, the DEV must maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet and must not touch the roommate or items in the roommate's living space.

9.   The DEV is not permitted to use the Resident's restroom, regardless of private or shared accommodations.
10. The DEV must comply with the Community policies and requirements for COVID-19 infection. Failure to do so may result in the visitor being asked to leave and not being permitted to visit.

Documentation

1.   The Community will maintain documentation as follows:
     a.   Log of visitation dates and time for contact tracing purposes.
     b.   Records of the date of DEV's most recent test date and the date of next due date.
     c.   DEV Health Screening forms
     d.   Designated Essential Visitor Designation forms, and any subsequent updates requested by the Resident