

TO: Visitors to Psychiatric Rehab (PRD) Group Living Environments (GLE)
FROM: Jeanne Russo, Senior Vice President
DATE: August 24, 2020
RE: Visitation Policy to PRD GLEs - Updated

We understand how difficult it has been for family members and friends to stay connected to loved ones during this pandemic of COVID 19. In particular the inability to visit loved ones that reside in GLEs has been very difficult for both the individual living in the GLE and the family member or friend. This precaution was necessary however, in order to ensure that the spread of the COVID 19 virus was contained. Public health experts have now determined that outside visitation is safe when certain precautions, such as social distancing and face coverings, are strictly followed. Starting June 10, 2020 Vinfen residential programs started to allow outside visitation following the rules outlined below. Each GLE has the right to determine whether or not visitation can be safely permitted for residents, visitors and staff.

Designated Outdoor Area

- Visitors will be permitted in a designated outdoor area, such as a yard, patio, open porches, parking lot or driveway.
- No enclosed outdoor spaces, such as a tent, will be allowed.
- Visitors will not be allowed entry into the home for any reason.

Limitations on Visitors

- Visits will be limited to 2 visitors at one time.
- Children and at-risk people are strongly encouraged to remain home.
- Only one visit may occur at a GLE program at one time.
- No outdoor parties, gatherings, or barbecues are allowed.
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the visit being terminated.

Visitor Screening

- All visitors must be screened prior to visiting with a resident.
 - Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have symptoms of COVID 19 including felt feverish, fever, had chills, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, unexplained rash, fatigue, headache, new loss of smell/taste, new muscle aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
 - Anyone with a fever of 100.0 or higher will not be permitted to visit under any circumstances – visitors will have their temperatures taken upon arrival.

- Visitors are not permitted to visit if they have tested positive for COVID 19 in the past 14 days or if they have been ordered by a health care professional or local board of health official to quarantine due to exposure.
- Visitors or visitors with household members who have traveled out of state in the last 14 days may not be permitted to visit depending on the governor's guidance around travel outside of the state.
- Any individual who participates in a visitation and develops signs and symptoms of COVID 19 within 2 days after the visitation must immediately notify the program of the date they were on site, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations where the visit occurred.

Face Masks

- All visitors are required to wear a face covering during the visit. The visitor should bring their own face covering with them.
- Residents will be encouraged to wear face coverings during the visit.

Social Distancing and Supervision

- Visitors and residents must follow social distancing guidelines and remain 6 feet apart at all times.
- A program staff member will remain with the resident at all times during the visit.

Scheduling Visits in Advance

- The program may limit the length of any visit, the days on which visits will be permitted, the hours during a day when visits will be permitted, and the number of times during a day or week a resident may be visited. The needs of all residents will attempt to be accommodated – however visits may require a staggered schedule in order to ensure essential social distancing.
- Visits must be scheduled with the Program Director in advance to allow for coordination among visitors and to ensure adequate staffing is available.
- It is preferable that visits last no longer than 30 minutes to limit exposure of all involved. Visits may be limited to once weekly.
- All Vinfen GLEs will continue to support alternative electronic methods for communication between residents and loved ones such as Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp or Google Duo.

Quarantined Homes and Isolated Residents

- Visits will not be permitted with anyone who is currently in isolation because they are COVID 19 positive confirmed or presumptive, or if the household is under a restriction or embedded status.

Disinfecting the Visitation Area

- If the designated outdoor area includes chairs, tables, or a picnic bench, all surfaces must be disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant for use against SARS-CoV-2 after each visit. The facilities department can direct you as to which disinfectants are to be used if in doubt.

Off-site Visitation and Community Access

- Residents may leave the program to access other community locations, including visits with family and/or friends, subject to the following:
 - The program will provide continued education on infection control and prevention practices, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, hand hygiene and other strategies to mitigate risk related to the specific activities/locations the resident intends to access (e.g. visiting family home, accessing community resources such as stores/coffee shops, meeting a friend, attending an appointment on their own).
 - The program will ensure the resident has access to a mask
 - Program staff will regularly screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms and fever. If case contact tracing becomes necessary, the program staff will work with the resident to obtain the names and contact information for any person with whom the resident was in contact.
 - To the extent possible, the program will encourage residents to limit off-site visits and activities to outdoor locations and minimize the time spent in highly populated, public areas, or other areas where the ability to social distance may be limited.
 - Off-site visits and community access are strongly discouraged for any resident who is currently under isolation/restriction because they are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive or isolated/restricted because of close or household contact.

Visitation Policies Subject to Change

- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will require the termination of the visit and may result in a temporary suspension of visitation.
- Vinfen may continue to prohibit visitation on a case-by-case basis if a resident or staff test positive or shows symptom of illness, or it is determined visitation cannot safely be accommodated at the specific GLE.

Thank you everyone, I hope that you and the residents are all coping as well as can be expected with this situation. Vinfen staff will do their best to ensure that this process moves as smoothly as possible for all involved. If you have any questions please speak with your local GLE Program Director. Let's all stay healthy and safe during these difficult times!