

# Shrewsbury



Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Center

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September 17, 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

I hope this letter finds you all well as we head into the fall season. It amazes me how fast time passes, now that it's mid-September. It's also hard to believe it has been 6 months since beginning this unimaginable journey with COVID-19.

Shrewsbury Nursing has been COVID-free since the beginning of May. Staff is still being tested bi-weekly as per Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations. We continue to practice universal masking, social distancing, adhere to infection control protocols, and we all have proper PPE (personal protective equipment) needed to ensure your loved ones are cared for properly and safely.

This week, the DPH's Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality has provided long-term care facilities with updated visitor guidance to include indoor visits for our residents and families. This comes at a perfect time since the weather is changing so quickly. **Indoor visit protocols will be effective beginning September 25, 2020, and the regulations and guidelines are as follows:**

## **Visit regulations:**

*In-person visitation is allowed in a designated visitation space, provided that the long-term care facility implements all the following safety, care, and infection control measures and policies:*

- A resident may be visited if the resident has *recovered or is negative* from COVID-19. (This applies to Shrewsbury Nursing Units 1 and 3).
- A resident that is currently *quarantined* after a recent hospital admission the resident may not be visited due to suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19. (Unit 2).
- A resident who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 **cannot** participate in a visitation.
- ***The unit, floor or care area where the resident lives must not have any confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past***

***14 days; however, notwithstanding this condition, if a facility determines that a confirmed or suspected case within the facility presents a risk for all units, the facility at its discretion may suspend indoor visitation.***

- Prior to transporting a resident to the designated indoor visitation space, the long-term care facility must screen visitors for COVID-19 symptoms and check their temperature. Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (fever equal to or greater than 100.0 F, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgia, chills or new onset of loss of taste or smell) will **not** be permitted to visit with a resident.
- A visitor must remain at least 6 feet from the resident and attending staff member(s) for the majority of the visit. A plastic divide will be in place to assist.
- Brief physical contact may be allowed if desired by both the resident and visitor. In order to reduce risk of transmission, individuals must:
  - Wash hands and or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol before and after contact;
  - Hug with faces in opposite directions; and
  - Limit the duration of close physical contact and avoid close face-to-face contact even when face masks are used.
- Staff, residents and visitors must wear a face mask for the duration of the visit.
- Any individual who enters the long-term care facility and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, myalgia, chills, or new onset loss of smell or taste within 2 days after exiting the long-term care facility or designated outdoor space **must immediately notify the long-term care facility** of the date they were in the facility.

**Visit guidelines:**

- The residents must be offered the opportunity to visit for no longer than 30 minutes.
- Visits are offered on no fewer than five days of the week and one of the days must be on a weekend day. At least one day per week visits are offered outside of standard business hours.
- The number of visits occurring at the facility on a given day may require visits to be scheduled in advance.

Please contact Lisa Katz to set up visits at (774) 275-4919 or email her at [lkatz@snrc.net](mailto:lkatz@snrc.net).

I look forward to seeing you in the facility shortly and finally being able to show off the renovated lobby. Until then if you should have any further questions please reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Gauthier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Gauthier, LNHA  
Administrator  
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