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March 23, 2021

RE: Visitation and Outings Updates – Cottages & Reflections

Dear Family and Friends of the Cottages at Three Links,

Our priority throughout this pandemic is to keep everyone who lives and works at Three Links safe, healthy and informed. We are committed to following the current regulatory guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and where applicable, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pertaining to visitation guidance.

Virtual and Window Visits

Virtual and window visits are the safest ways to visit your loved one. Arrange a virtual or window visit by calling:

- Cottage East: 507-664-8866
- Cottage West: 507-664-8860
- Cottage on Forest: 507-664-8805

Outdoor Visits

More information about outdoor visits will be forthcoming as the weather warms up on a consistent basis.

Prescheduled Indoor Visits

Prescheduled indoor visits have resumed at the Cottages. Minnesota Department of Health infection prevention core principles will continue to be adhered to for indoor visits. A maximum of two adults and a child under the age of 18 may attend an indoor visit at a time.

To schedule a visit, please call a minimum of 2-hours in advance. For best response, please call during business hours.

- Cottage East: 507-664-8866
- Cottage West: 507-664-8860
- Cottage on Forest: 507-664-8805

Each visitor will complete a COVID-19 screening upon entering.

Indoor visits will not be permitted under the following circumstances:

- When Rice County has a COVID-19 test positivity rate of >10% AND <70% of the facility's residents have been vaccinated. Under these circumstances, unvaccinated residents cannot have visitors*
- Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, cannot have visitors* until the resident has met the criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions.
- Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, cannot have visitors* until the resident has met the criteria for release from quarantine.
- If one or more cases of COVID-19 are limited to one unit/wing in the facility, residents on the unit cannot have visitors* until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
- If one or more cases of COVID-19 are present on more than one unit/wing, then no visitation will be permitted in the facility until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.

* Compassionate care and essential caregiver visits must be facilitated at all times with all residents, with appropriate personal protective equipment utilized.

General Visitation Policies

- All visits must be scheduled.
- All visitors must be screened upon entrance to the building.
- Three Links reserves the right to limit the number of visitors per resident at one time. Three Links is allowing 3 persons at a time if one of those persons is under the age of 18.
- Three Links reserves the right to limit the number of visitors in the building at any one time.
- Three Links reserves the right to limit the length of visits. Visits are scheduled for an hour.
- Once screening questions are completed and hand sanitizer is used, indoor visitors should go directly to the visit area (either identified common visit space or the resident room) and limit movement in the facility. Visiting other residents or staff is prohibited.
- Visitors are expected to wear a well-fitting mask at all times.
- If the resident being visited is fully vaccinated, the resident can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor(s) while wearing a well-fitting mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after.
- Any potential visitor who does not pass the entrance screening will be prohibited from entering the building or visiting with a resident.
- Three Links reserves the right to remove and prohibit visitors if they are unable to follow visitation guidelines, including proper wearing of personal protective equipment.

Non-medically necessary outings

Fully-vaccinated residents

- Residents do not have to quarantine after non-medically necessary outings unless they spend 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19.
- Residents who want to exercise their right to leave their long-term care facilities for outings that are not necessary for medical reasons, we recommend taking steps to lower the risk of spreading COVID-19:
 - Gather indoors or outdoors with other people who are fully vaccinated.
 - Visit indoors or outdoors with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 infection.

- Wear well-fitting masks that cover the mouth and nose, stay 6 feet from others (social distancing) when practical, and practice good hand hygiene to reduce risk of infection.
- MDH strongly encourages attending places of worship or other group events only when the 14-day county percent positivity rate is below 5%. The positivity rate is the percentage of people who test positive for COVID-19 among all the people in the county who are tested.

Unvaccinated residents

- Before taking a loved one out of the building, you should contact the nurse management team regarding quarantine plans.
- Residents who are not fully vaccinated and leave for non-medically necessary outings will likely be required to quarantine upon returning to the facility for 14 days.

Safety is a shared responsibility

1. We all continue have a role in protecting our community and each other from this virus.
2. All visitors must comply with our screening protocols and other infection control measures when they visit with their loved one.
3. You are a partner in helping protect our residents and staff from this virus. We ask that you understand the requirements and procedures we have put in place are based on state and federal guidance. We invite you to work with us, as partners in caregiving, to abide by them.
4. We ask that individuals, even those not connected directly with long-term care settings, receive the vaccine, continue to wear a mask, practice hand hygiene, stay home if ill and get tested if symptoms present. These measures will help keep the positivity rates low and allow long-term care settings to employ safe and socially distanced visitation for residents.

For the most up-to-date information, please check our website at threelinks.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/threelinkscommunity.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we navigate changing COVID-19 protocols.

Sincerely,



Mark Anderson, Chief Executive Officer



Kerry Collins, RN
Director of Health Services – Cottages & Reflections