



Colonial Assisted Living/  
Colonial Skilled Nursing  
Facility  
In Person Visitation Policy  
Senate Bill 988

- A. Purpose and Policy
- B. Essential Caregiver Designation Form
- C. Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

**Colonial Assisted Living In Person Visitation policy and procedures:**

**Adopted: 5/6/22**

**Exhibit A:**

**Purpose:** In response to an In Person Visitation bill (SB988) being signed into law creating Chapter 408.823, which subject is "In Person Visitation". This Policy and these procedures are intended to serve as documents of compliance with stated law set forth. A Resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian or other individual as an essential caregiver.

**Policy:** The following are the procedures to be followed to identify Essential Caregivers for residents and the expectations. These procedures will be administered equally to all residents who request to have an essential caregiver.

Essential Caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with any difficult transition or loss, upsetting events, making major medical decisions, needs cueing to eat or drink, stops speaking or end of life transitions. Essential Caregivers visitors may be allowed entry into facilities for at least 2 hours daily under these circumstances. At Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing the 2-hour visitation will be between the hours of 8:00Am to 8:00PM 7 days a week. Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be agreed upon in writing by the facility designee and the resident's responsible party.

**Procedures:**

- I. For designation and utilization of Essential Caregiver Visitors.
1. Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing will provide the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) with a copy of this policy and procedure with the initial licensure application, renewal application and/or change of ownership application.
2. Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing essential caregiver visitors' policy and procedure will be available on the Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing homepage of their website as indicated in law.
3. Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing will designate the Executive Director as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
4. Colonial will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of the staff to safely screen and accommodate the essential caregiver visitors.
  - a. Identify locations for visits and care to occur planning for residents in shared spaces and facilities with minimal common spaces to identify maximum time availability
  - b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards patios and other covered areas that are protected from heat and sun, with cooling devices, if outdoor visits are needed.
  - c. Create indoor visitation spaces for residents in a room that is not accessible by other residents or in a resident's private room if the resident is bedbound and for health reasons cannot leave their room.
    5. All current residents/POA/Guardians will be asked if they would like to identify an essential caregiver.
    6. All new residents will be asked upon moving in if they would like to identify an essential caregiver.
    7. All residents will be allowed to update as requested, the named essential caregiver of record within 2 business days of the requested change.
    8. Residents are allowed in person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
      - A. End of life situations
      - B. A resident who was living with family before being admitted to the provider, is struggling with the change of environment and lack of in-person family support
      - C. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions
      - D. The resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member



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E. The resident needs queuing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member.

F. A resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking

- 9. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.
- 10. No more than one essential caregiver visitor may be designated per resident
- 11. The policy will not prohibit essential caregiver visits if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing signs of a communicable disease. Visits in these circumstances will likely require a higher level of PPE than standard surgical masks. The general visitation requirement that the has no new facility inset of a communicable disease (such as Covid-19) is not applicable to Essential Caregiver Visitors.
- 12. Essential caregiver visitors must wear PPE per the facility infection control policy. The PPE must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers. At Colonial Essential caregivers must wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
- 13. Any changes to the Colonial Assisted Livings Policy and Procedures for essential caregivers must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregivers.

**II. To Facilitate visits by Essential Caregiver Visitors upon request from a Resident or Family Member/Friend:**

- 1. The resident will read/sign the policy. The acknowledgment of the signature represents that the Essential Caregiver Visitor will abide by the policy set forth here.
- 2. The Essential caregiver visitor will complete training on Colonial Assisted Living Infection Prevention and Control including use of PPE, Use of masks (if applicable), Hand washing and sanitizing and social distance protocols.
- 3. The essential Caregiver Visitor must immediately inform the facility if they develop any symptoms consistent with communicable disease within 24 hours of their last visit at the facility.
- 4. Essential Caregiver Visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing at the time visitation schedule is devolved and agreed upon.

**III. . In making this designation, I consent and understand that: When an Essential Caregiver Visit is scheduled, the facility will:**

- 1. Colonial Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing will screen the visitor per the facility infection control policy and document the name date and time of entry and the screening mechanism used along with screening employees name and signature. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails screening, the visitor cannot be allowed entry.
- 2. Colonial will ensure the consents training and policy acknowledgment are in place.
- 3. Colonial will ensure appropriate PPE if applicable
- 4. Colonial will require the Essential visitor to sign in and out
- 5. Colonial will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to the policy
- 6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility policies related to infection prevention, policies, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Colonial assisted living will restrict/revoke visitation.
- 7. If Essential Visitors status is revoked due to failure to follow infection control policies, the resident may select a different essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Colonial Assisted Livings policy for essential caregiver visits.



