



COVID-19 Visitation Policy
Revised 1/6/22

We understand the importance of families visiting their loved ones, therefore, we are implementing the following strategies to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and well-being of our residents, staff and visitors.

The following will be the protocol that Head Injury Association staff, the individuals and their families will be expected to follow in order to ensure safe and enjoyable visits.

1. This protocol is established based upon NYS guidance that is available at this time, and is subject to change, without notice, as such guidance is modified.
2. All such visitation can occur specifically from 6:00p – 8:00p, Monday thru Friday, and 10:00a – 8:00p, Saturday and Sunday.
3. Head Injury Association will be mindful of the time spent visiting in order to maximize access to visitation by all residents; therefore, visits will be limited to one hour.
4. All such visitation needs to be prearranged a minimum of 24 hours in advance and scheduled by family members with house management. Visits shall be staggered in half hour intervals so as not to have multiple families visiting in a shared space at one time and to ensure adequate time to disinfect between visits.
5. All other residents will be notified ahead of time that visitors will be present and advised how to remain socially distant from them.
6. Head Injury Association will thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence with the visitor and the resident ahead of a scheduled visit.
7. In order to ensure safety, all such visits will need to be monitored by staff.
 - a. Any physical contact or any other variation to this protocol made by participants or family member during a visit will be interrupted appropriately by supervising staff and the visitor will be asked to leave.
8. To ensure safety, only one family unit will be allowed to visit the facility at any one time, such family units must be limited to no more than two persons at a time, with no family member being younger than 18 years old.
9. Visitation in the outdoor areas (weather permitting) within the grounds is encouraged; for infection-control purposes. Masks are expected to be worn by all parties for the entirety of the visit.
 - a. Visitation exercised inside the facility shall only occur in a designated area where disinfection, social distancing, and separation from other residents can be safely implemented.
 - b. Visits may occur in single bedrooms, ideally no more than two visitors will be permitted. Visitors must remain in the resident's room throughout the visit except when directed by staff to leave.

10. All visitors will be expected to participate in an initial health screening, following the same pre-entry protocol as staff. Visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks and shall be denied visitation if they report any COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days, or have a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - a. The results of this screening are to be documented on the programs' Staff/ Visitor Log for the day which will also include name and contact information, as well as the location within the facility/property that visitation occurred.
11. During the visit, all family members will be expected to wear Personal Protective Equipment, specifically regarding masks. The use of gloves and gowns is at the discretion of the visitor. All such PPE will be supplied by the agency as needed, but will need to be discarded by the family members on their own accord.
 - a. Visitors who refuse to wear a face mask will be asked to leave the facility.
 - b. Visitors must sanitize their hands upon arrival and perform meticulous hand hygiene throughout the visit.
12. Social distancing, at a distance of at least six-feet, is expected of all participants at all times during the visit regardless of vaccination status.
 - a. Management staff should be aware of any situation where social distancing could be a greater challenge, and should gain whatever guidance they may need to ensure that social distancing occurs.
13. House management staff are to ensure that program staff, individuals and associated families follow this protocol to the best of their and their staff's ability.
14. Management staff are expected to forward any person expressing issues or problems with any of the limitations or prohibitions contained in this protocol to their immediate supervisor.
15. This protocol is strictly in the context of on-site visitation by non-agency persons; particularly family members. Visitation remains prohibited anywhere except within sight of the IRA and shall not include sitting in a non-agency vehicle or leaving the premises unmonitored by staff.
16. This visitation protocol will need to be suspended for any program location that becomes quarantined due to any health-related issue.
 - a. Visitation will not occur with any individuals who are currently in quarantine due to exposure for COVID-19 or isolation for positive COVID-19 test.
 - b. Head Injury Association will notify visitors, at the time they are scheduling a visit, whether there are any positive or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the home.