

**VISITATION POLICY**  
**Lakehouse West ALF**

Section: Operations  
Policy No.: 8.23  
Policy: In-Person Visitation Policy  
Adoption Date: April 26, 2022

**Exhibit:**

- A) Florida Law Chapter 2022-34 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 988
- B) Resident Essential Caregiver Designation Form
- C) Essential Caregiver Acceptance Form

**Purpose:**

In-Person Visitation bill has been signed into law, creating Chapter 408.823, which is subject “In-person visitation.” A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver to visit during a crisis.

**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 that request to have an essential caregiver, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and transgender status), age, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Essential caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, or end-of-life. Essential caregiver visitors may be allowed entry into facilities on a limited basis for these specific purposes. The provider must allow at a minimum in-person visitation for at least 2-hours daily under these circumstances. At Lakehouse West, the 2-hour visitation will be between 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Lakehouse West may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis for end-of-life residents. These exceptions will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the facility’s designee and the resident’s responsible party.

**Procedures:**

- I. **For designation and utilization of essential caregiver visitors.**
  - 1. Lakehouse West will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the facility’s essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure, with a renewal application and/or change of ownership application.
  - 2. Lakehouse West essential caregiver visitor’s policy and procedure is available on our [www.lakehousewest.com](http://www.lakehousewest.com) homepage.
  - 3. Lakehouse West will designate nurse manager as key staff to support infection prevention and control training.
  - 4. Lakehouse West will set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor.

- a. Visits will take place in the resident's apartment.
  - b. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or other covered areas that are protected from heat and sun, with cooling devices, if needed.
5. All residents and/or POA/Guardian if appropriate will be asked if they want to identify an Essential Caregiver.
6. All new residents will be asked if they would like to identify and Essential Caregiver upon move-in.
7. All residents will be allowed to update as requested the named Essential Caregiver of record within two business days of request.
8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:
  - a) End-of-life situations.
  - b) A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
  - c) The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
  - d) A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend, or family member who recently died.
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 need NOT prohibit essential caregiver visitor visits, if the specific resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive, or showing symptoms 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 facility has no new facility onset cases of a communicable disease (for example COVID-19) is not applicable to visitation by essential caregiver visitors.
12. Lakehouse West is not required to provide for "facility-provided" COVID-19 testing if, and only if, it is based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance. The cost of this testing cannot be passed on to the visitor.
13. Essential caregiver visitors must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per facility's Infection Control Policies. The PPE required must be consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for healthcare workers. At Lakehouse West, the essential caregiver visitors shall wear the same PPE that staff wear to provide care or services to the resident.
14. Any changes to Lakehouse West essential caregiver visitor policies must be promptly communicated to affected residents and essential caregiver visitors.

**II. To facilitate visits by Essential caregiver visitors upon a request from a resident or friend/family member:**

1. The resident (or their representative) will read and sign the policy and procedures. The acknowledgement of the signature represents that the essential caregiver visitor will abide by the policies set forth in this document.



2. The essential caregiver visitor will complete training on Lakehouse West infection prevention and control including the use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, social distancing.
3. The essential caregiver visitor must immediately inform the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24-hours of their last visit at the facility.
4. Essential caregiver visits will take place in the resident's apartment.

**III. When an essential caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit, the facility will:**

1. Lakehouse West will thoroughly screen the visitor per the facility's infection control policy and procedure and document the name of the individual, the date and time of entry, and the screening mechanism used. Along with the screening employee's name and signature. Just as with staff entering the building, if the visitor fails the screening, the visitor CANNOT be allowed entry.
2. Lakehouse West will ensure that the required consents, and training and policy acknowledgements are in place.
3. Lakehouse West will ensure that the caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE if applicable.
4. Lakehouse West will require the essential caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the Accushield machine and the visitor log.
5. Lakehouse West will monitor the essential caregiver visitor's adherence to policies and procedures.
6. If the essential caregiver visitor fails to follow the facility's infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, Lakehouse West shall restrict or revoke visitation.
7. In the event the essential caregiver visitor's status is revoked due to the individual not following the facility's policy and procedures, the resident may select a different essential caregiver visitor who will be granted visitation rights upon proper vetting and agreeing to Lakehouse West policies and procedures.