

PALATKA LPOC, LLC

Health Services

Florida: In-Person Visitation Policy

“No Patient Left Alone Act”

A. Policy Statement:

It is the policy of **Palatka LPOC, LLC** to promote resident visitation while maintaining prudent infection control practices in compliance with the regulations set forth in Chapter 408.823, Florida Statutes.

B. Procedure:

A resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an Essential Caregiver. The following are the procedures to be followed relating to visitation and to identify Essential Caregivers for residents, as well as the expectations of both General Visitors and Essential Caregivers.

Essential Caregiver visitors provide emotional support to help a resident deal with a difficult transition or loss, upsetting event, making major medical decisions, needs cueing to eat and drink, stops speaking, or end-of-life (“Essential Caregiver”). At a minimum, **Palatka LPOC, LLC** must allow an Essential Caregiver in-person visitation for at least 2 hours daily under the above-referenced circumstances. The 2-hour visitation will be between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The Executive Director may make exceptions to the 2-hour visitation on a case-by-case basis.

All visitors who do not meet the requirements of an Essential Caregiver shall be considered General Visitors (“General Visitors”).

I. For compliance with Florida Statute Chapter 408.823, designation and utilization of Essential Caregiver visitors and rules of visitation:

1. No visitor may be compelled to provide proof of vaccination status to gain entry for the purposes of visitation.
2. **Palatka LPOC, LLC** will provide the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) with a copy of the Community’s visitor policy and procedure with the initial licensure application, renewal application, and/or change of ownership application.
3. The visitation policy and procedure for **Palatka LPOC, LLC**, including Essential Caregiver designation and visitation, shall be available on the home page of the Community website.
4. A staff member is designated to support infection control and prevention by providing information on the visitation policy to visitors.
5. The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for infection prevention and control training.
6. **Palatka LPOC, LLC** will respect the right of the resident to determine the number of visitors he/she would like to have at any given time during the 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. visiting hours. Visitation by Essential Caregivers will always be allowed to occur. General visitation shall be made, and protocols shall be implemented along the lines of the following, when practical:
 - a. Identify locations for visitation/care to occur, planning for residents in shared spaces and facilities with minimal common space to identify maximum time

16. The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for staff and visitor compliance with this policy and procedure.
17. **Consensual physical contact between residents and their loved ones will not be restricted.**

II. To facilitate visits by General Visitors and Essential Caregiver visitors upon a request from a resident or friend/family member:

1. The resident or their representative will read and sign the visitation policy and procedures. The acknowledgement of the signature represents that the resident or representative understands that both General Visitors and Essential Caregiver visitors must abide by the policies set forth in this document.
2. The Essential Caregiver visitor will sign an acknowledgement of receipt and understanding of the visitation policies and procedures. The Essential Caregiver's signature represents that they have received the policies and procedures, understand them, and agree to abide by them.
3. The visitor will complete training on infection prevention and control, including the use of PPE, masks, hand sanitation, and other infection-control measures when required by **Palatka LPOC, LLC** due to a resident's infectious status, community outbreak status, or other applicable infection-control circumstances.
4. The Essential Caregiver visitor must immediately inform **Palatka LPOC, LLC** if they develop symptoms consistent with a communicable disease within 24 hours of their last visit at the Community.
5. Essential Caregiver visits may take place in the resident's room or a designated area determined by the Executive Director.
6. General Visitor visits may take place in accordance with applicable infection-control protocols at the time of the visit.

III. When an Essential Caregiver visitor is scheduled to visit, Palatka LPOC, LLC will:

1. The Community designee will screen the visitor in accordance with **Palatka LPOC, LLC's** applicable infection-control policy and procedure. If the visitor does not meet applicable screening requirements, entry may be restricted when permitted by applicable law and necessary for infection-control purposes.
2. The Executive Director will ensure that required consents, training, and policy acknowledgements are in place.
3. The Community designee will ensure that the Essential Caregiver visitor has appropriate PPE, if applicable.
4. The Community designee will require the Essential Caregiver visitor to sign in and out on the visitor tracking system.
5. Community staff will monitor the Essential Caregiver visitor's adherence to applicable policies and procedures.
6. If the Essential Caregiver visitor fails to follow **Palatka LPOC, LLC's** infection prevention and control requirements, after attempts to mitigate concerns, the Executive Director may restrict or revoke visitation to the extent permitted by Florida law.