**Royal Health Group**

 **Social Leaves During COVID-19**

Royal Health Group supports residents’ participation in community outings however these activities increase the risk of residents contracting COVID-19 from the community at-large and introducing it into the facility.

Because of the risk of COVID-19 transmission and concerns for the health and safety of residents, it is recommended that unvaccinated residents and residents who have not received the booster vaccine carefully consider any planned leaves of absence.

**Risks:**

1. People with no symptoms can still spread the infection, including vaccinated people.
2. Several outbreaks have happened by unvaccinated and vaccinated people attending outings or family gatherings.
3. Compromised residents, regardless of vaccination status, can become very ill and die if exposed to someone with COVID-19.

**Procedure for social leaves outings:**

1. Residents who are positive or symptomatic are restricted from non-emergent travel.
2. During outings, resident and resident representative will agree to the following to reduce risk:
	1. Read and understand the COVID-19 Symptoms Education.
	2. Wear face coverings
	3. Wash hands frequently
	4. Practice social distancing.
	5. Encourage others who resident will be interacting with to also wear masks, social distance, and wash hands frequently.
	6. Limit interaction to the fewest number of people possible while resident is on leave.
	7. Loved ones will limit their interactions to the fewest number of people possible for the two weeks before the resident’s planned leave/visit.
	8. Assess possible exposure risks while on leave and follow instructions on how to mitigate them.
3. Resident or Responsible Party must report if the resident was in close contact with an individual who tested positive when out on the leave.
4. Resident will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon return.
5. Frequent testing may be required upon return regardless of vaccination status.
6. Based on risk, unvaccinated residents may need to be tested and quarantined upon return.
7. Unvaccinated residents who are on a leave for more than 24 hours will be managed as a readmission and will be required to be tested frequently and quarantine for 8-14 days.
8. Quarantine duration will depend on test results and symptoms.
9. Residents who are recovered from COVID within the previous 3 months or are fully vaccinated (14 days or more since their final dose in the vaccine series) may not need to quarantine upon return unless exposed.

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Resident/Responsible Person Date

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Facility Representative Date

Original to be retained in resident record

Resident/Responsible Person may have a copy rev 11/2021