



TO: Mill Street Tenants & Family Members
From: Mick Siems, Director
DATE: March 18, 2021
RE: MN Department of Health Visitation Update

Dear Mill Street Tenants & Family Members,

We are very excited to share the news that state and federal guidance regarding limited visitation in our setting has been revised. As a result, we can safely open our doors to more visitors. Additionally, those tenants who are fully vaccinated will be able to come and go without the need to quarantine upon return. You heard that right, **tenants who are fully vaccinated are free to come and go at this time! Woohoo!!**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have issued guidance on how we can relax visitation restrictions and continue to protect the health of our tenants and staff. We are working swiftly to interpret and confirm details, revise policies, educate staff, and prepare to welcome loved ones with fewer restrictions in place. We are carefully developing a safe and comprehensive plan and ask for your patience as we develop new protocols that comply with regulatory guidance.

While we prepare for these exciting changes, here are a few details you can expect:

- Tenants who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after non-medically necessary outings (i.e. Sunday worship service or other group event*, trips to the lake, salon appointments, etc.) unless they spend 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period within 6 feet of someone who can spread COVID-19 (high risk exposure with someone who has COVID-19).

*MDH strongly discourages attending group events if the 14-day county positivity rate is > 5%.

- If a tenant returning from a stay in another health care setting is fully vaccinated and has experienced no known exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19, they do not need to quarantine upon re-admission.
- In-house visitation** is available between the hours of 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM one Saturday per month. Visits will take place in the privacy of the tenant's apartment. **Scheduled appointments are required.**

**Facilities are required to have no active COVID cases for both tenants and staff to allow for in-house visitation. Contact our front desk at (218) 739-2900 to learn if in-house visits are available.

- Upon entry, visitors will check themselves in and out. Visitors will self-screen for temperature, symptoms of COVID-19, and if they have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person in prior 14 days. If they have, they will not be allowed to visit regardless of vaccination status.
- Visits will be limited to no more four individuals from the same household or two individuals from separate households.
- Visits may last for up to two hours.
- Visitors will be required to practice hand hygiene and wear well-fitting facemasks per guidelines to observe appropriate infection control and prevention practices.
- Fully vaccinated tenants can choose to have close contact with their visitor. **Hugs are encouraged!** ☺ Please note that well-fitting facemasks need to be worn by both tenants and visitors at all times. Visitors are expected to remain socially distanced from other residents.
- We encourage visitors to get vaccinated, but it will not be required.

While visitation is greatly expanded under the federal and state changes, there are a few distinct exceptions tied to unvaccinated tenants and tenants with confirmed COVID-19 infections—so these policies will not look exactly the same for every single tenant in every circumstance.

Our ability to relax visitation restrictions would not have been possible without two important factors: the high rate at which our tenants have received vaccination from COVID-19 as well as the incredible commitment and dedication of our staff team, who have worked tirelessly to manage the risks of COVID-19. We know that you, too, have made sacrifices during this incredibly difficult time, and thank you for your patience and understanding.

We deeply appreciate the sacrifices that you have made to limit the impact of COVID-19 on our community and your patience as we prepare to open our doors. Our entire team looks forward to seeing you again—families, friends and volunteers are a core to what makes our community so special.

As always, the health and well-being of both our staff and our tenants continues to be our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns you are invited to contact me at 218-736-8590. Thank you!