

# Keeping Our Community Safe During COVID-19

The comfort, health, and safety of our communities is always a top priority.

For the past year, we've reinforced our commitment to wellness as we take every measure to protect our residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic while preserving quality of life.

There's a lot to be positive about in our nation's journey to stopping COVID-19 and saving lives. Already, [70% of American seniors have received a vaccine](#)—the best way to end this health threat. And, [by the end of May](#), the country will have enough vaccines for all adults.

Of course, we still need to be vigilant to protect our communities, including the most vulnerable members. We've collected the following information to help put your mind at ease about pandemic health and safety.

Should you have any questions that aren't addressed here, please phone us at 732-863-2184 for the most up-to-date information, or [use our contact form](#).

## The CDC Continues to Update Guidelines & We'll Continue to Keep You Informed

On April 27, the [CDC published updated guidance](#) calling for prioritization of visitation, dining, and group activities in assisted living communities.

Fully vaccinated residents are [now able](#) to participate in communal dining without physical distancing. During group activities, if all residents are fully vaccinated, they [may choose](#) to have close contact without masks.

Determining the vaccination status of residents [should](#) follow all state regulations and take resident privacy into account. When vaccination status is unknown, the CDC still [recommends](#) safety precautions such as face masks and physical distancing.

If unvaccinated residents are present, masks and physical distancing are still [recommended](#). Anyone in isolation or quarantine [should not](#) participate in group activities or communal dining.

We know that communal activities are important to the well-being of residents. We welcome the ability to provide these activities again while still maintaining the highest standards of care and safety.

## **Can I Visit My Loved One?**

In most cases, yes! We know our residents and their families are eager to see each other and are thrilled to facilitate interactions where possible. Visitation may be allowed, but this will vary from community to community depending on each state's restrictions.

All of our residents, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated, are permitted to visit indoors or out provided both individuals are wearing a well-fitting face mask. We continue to encourage six feet between residents and their visitors in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible.

[Updated guidance](#) from the CDC allows residents and visitors, provided everyone is fully vaccinated and in a private room, to have close contact without masks if they so choose.

[Please reach out](#) ahead of your visit to ask any questions you may have about our visiting guidelines. Each community might be subject to slightly different procedures, depending on the state they are in.

## **Is My Loved One Safe in Assisted Living?**

Just as we did before the pandemic, we continue to adhere to all state workplace safety standards.

During the pandemic, this includes the following enhanced health and safety measures:

- Masking and social distancing are in effect to the maximum extent possible
- Face masks and sanitization materials are available to staff and visitors
- We routinely clean and disinfect all high-touch areas
- Weekly health checks are performed for staff, such as temperature screening and completing a self-assessment checklist
- COVID-positive employees are not permitted to work until symptoms have disappeared and a negative COVID test has been provided

## **Can My Loved One Move Into Assisted Living During the Pandemic?**

Yes! We are continuing our day-to-day operations, just in modified ways.

We are taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of your loved one's new home. Thorough disinfection and cleaning of all surfaces takes place before they move in.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be able to assist with the move-in, nor will anyone under quarantine or isolation requirements. All of our staff wear face masks and complete regular health checks.

Even in extraordinary circumstances, we strive to make your loved one feel welcome in their new community.

## **What Measures are Being Taken to Ensure Dining & Activities are Safe?**

We know that sharing meals is an important part of the day. We've ensured a safe, socially engaging dining experience by arranging meals so residents can eat with a peer while maintaining safe physical distancing.

Fully vaccinated residents are [able](#) to participate in communal dining without physical distancing.

We distribute single-use condiments to eliminate shared touchpoints and our dining room is thoroughly cleaned following each meal.

Our scheduled activities continue throughout the day and evening. Residents can choose from a variety of offerings with safe physical distancing in effect at all times. During group activities, if all residents are fully vaccinated, they [may choose](#) to have close contact without masks.

For activities where supplies are required, these items aren't shared, and we thoroughly clean them after each program.

As for transportation, our residents are distanced when on our coach and our team ensures individuals aren't brought to high-exposure areas.

## **Who Can Be Vaccinated?**

Adults over 65 and staff in long-term care centers are eligible, and many have already been vaccinated thanks to priority vaccination that began in December 2020.

As of April 5, adults 55 and older are [eligible to receive a vaccine](#). You may also qualify if you're younger than 55, but meet other criteria. Check your [state's eligibility criteria](#) for the latest information.

If you would like to receive a notification when you become eligible for the vaccine, [sign up here](#).

## **There's Plenty to Be Hopeful About at Our Communities**

We're so excited to see a light at the end of the tunnel as we approach the likely end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please don't hesitate to [reach out](#) if there are any other questions we can answer about our pandemic response and the comfort and health of our residents during this time.