

Aravilla Sarasota Visitation  
Policy and Procedures  
During Facility Outbreak of COVID-19

Florida State Bill (SB) 988, the No Patient Left Alone Act, guarantees Florida families the fundamental right to visit their loved ones who are receiving care in the hospital, hospices and a long-term care facilities. No health care facility in Florida may require a vaccine as a condition of visitation and every health care facility must allow their residents and patients to be hugged by their loved ones. SB 988 states health care facilities must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:

- End-of-life situations.
- 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.
- A resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
- A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a family friend or family member who recently died.
- A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat and drink which has previously been reported by a family member or care giver.
- A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

Aravilla Sarasota Assisted Living and Memory Care requires the following procedures to comply with Florida Statutes 400.022 (1) (b) and 429.98 (1). Before in-person visitation is permitted, all visitors and Essential Caregiver's must adhere to the following:

1. Sign in upon entering the facility before interaction with others and sign out at the end of each visit.
2. Comply with the Infection Control of Education for Visitors, which may require visitors to wear PPE including a face mask and other necessary PPE and perform hand hygiene. Staff can demonstrate the proper usage of PPE. (Handout)
3. The visitor shall sign the policy acknowledging an understanding of the visitation policy. Failure to adhere in the policy shall result in suspension of in-person visitation.
4. Submit a screening which may include the temperatures and/or a questionnaire about current health status.
5. Visitation hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. No restriction on the length of visit during 9am-9pm time frame. Unrestricted private communication, including receiving and sending unopened correspondence, access to a telephone, and visiting with any person of his or her choice, at any time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at a minimum. Upon request, the facility shall make provisions to extend visiting hours for caregivers and out-of-town guests, and in similar situations. No more than two visitors at a time. The LPN on duty in each building will be responsible for ensuring visitors adhere to policy and procedures.
6. Aravilla does not require any visitor to provide proof of vaccine or immunization status.

Consensual physical contact with a resident and the visitor is NOT prohibited. If you have any questions or comments regarding this policy, please contact Carol Copenhaver LPN, Executive Director at 941-544-2863.