



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

June 18, 2020

Dear VVH Family Members:

I know we are all very excited about outdoor visitation but also a time for caution. As repeatedly stated over the last several months those residing in nursing homes are at high risk when it comes to COVID-19; this includes those residing at VVH. We have all heard the devastating stories of nursing homes seeing large number of deaths after one initial case of COVID-19 and are very thankful that this is not the case at VVH.

The past several months of no visitation has been very hard on both our Veterans/Members. VVH staff has worked very hard to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 entering our facility. I cannot guarantee that we will remain COVID-19 free as we allow visitation. We will continue to follow all the regulatory guidance related to mitigating COVID-19 and maintain our high level of care to your loved one. Please do your part to help us mitigate this risk by doing the following:

- Strictly follow our visitation guidelines.
- Do not visit if you are ill or think you "may be coming down with something".
- Wear a facial covering when in public and not just during your visits.
- Wash your hands often, not just when you visit, but frequently through the day.
- Practice social distancing as much as possible during your daily routines.

I realize it is a lot to ask that there be no physical contact with your loved one during your visit, but this is the guidance we must follow. None of us want to think we were the one who may have brought COVID-19 into the building and caused our Veterans/Members to become ill or worse yet die.

These are new and challenging times for those residing, working and family members of those living at VVH. We need your continue support and help to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 entering VVH.

We look forward to seeing you again very soon. Stay safe, wash your hands, and wear your facial covering.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

VERMONT VETERANS HOME OUTDOOR VISITATION GUIDELINES

1. All visits require an appointment no same day visits will be accepted.
2. Appointments must be scheduled 48-hours in advance by calling 802-379-4542 M-F 7:30am to 4:00pm. We will begin accepting appointments for on Friday June 19th at 7:30am.
3. One thirty (30) minute visit per Veteran/Member per week. Visits are available from 9am to 11am, 1pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm.
4. Only 2 visitors per Veteran/Member if more than 2 individuals arrive the other will not be permitted to visit.
5. American and North visits will take place on the front porch. Brandon and Cardinal visits will take place in the Brandon courtyard. Look for the visitor registration signs.
6. Individuals who live outside of Vermont and would like to visit must follow the [Vermont Department of Health Cross State Leisure Travel Guidelines](#)
7. VVH cannot allow visitation from out of state individuals traveling from a high COVID 19 area as described at the website above. VVH will be referring to this guidance each time an appointment is requested by someone from outside of Vermont.
8. Initial COVID 19 screening will take place at time of scheduling your visit appointment. If you answer yes to any of the questions you will not be allowed to visit for 14-days.
9. VVH is required to obtain and maintain contact tracing information; this will include your address and phone number.
10. COVID 19 screening including the taking of your temperature will take place just prior to your visit. If you fail the screening requirements you will not be allowed to visit.
11. Face coverings must always be worn by all visitors over the age of 2. Visitors must provide their own facial coverings.
12. Visitors must use the hand sanitizer provided by VVH when they arrive for their visits and throughout their visit, as necessary.
13. 6 feet social distancing must be maintained during your visit.
14. There is to be no physical contact or the passing of letters, gifts, pictures, packages, etc. directly to your loved one these are to be given to the staff member present at the visit.
15. VVH is required to provide supervision for all visits and will do this at a distance to provide as much privacy as possible.
16. Visits can be ended if the visitor fails to follow the guidelines for the visit.
17. If you arrive late for your visit your visitation time will be reduce equal to the amount of time you are late. If you are 10 minutes late your visit will only be 20 minutes in length.
18. Visitors are prohibited from entering the facility for any reason during their visit.