

JULY 15, 2020

COVID-19 Update - Nursing Home Visitation

On Friday, July 10 the New York State Department of Health introduced guidance for nursing homes to resume visitation for residents and their families. Upon review of the regulations issued, NYS Nursing Homes have been challenged to comply with regulations that will unfortunately prohibit many nursing homes from opening to visitors.

For instance, on July 7, one of our staff members tested positive for COVID-19, which according to the regulations implemented by NYSDOH, we will have to now delay our visitation until we are COVID-free for 28 consecutive days. In addition to being 28-days free of COVID-19, Meadowbrook must also comply with several other regulations/requirements. Here are a few outlined by NYSDOH:

- 1.) Our region must be in Phase 3 of COVID-19 re-opening plan.
- 2.) We must have no staffing shortages for 28 days in a row.
- 3.) We must be COVID-19 free (staff and residents) for 28 consecutive days.

Meadowbrook will go to any length to reunite our residents with their loved ones and enable visitation in a safe manner; however, we feel obligated to share with you our concerns about the regulations:

Staffing shortages happen frequently, and without notice. To fully staff a 287 bed nursing home depends entirely on staff coming into work. Every nursing home & business struggles with this; just as we are powerless to stop the spread of this insidious virus, we are powerless in guaranteeing a fully-staffed team.

We have always been honest and transparent with our Meadowbrook residents, patients, staff and families. The pandemic has thrown us a curveball a few times, and we stay true to our mission which is to advocate for our residents and to provide them with the best care during these unprecedented times.

We have watched our residents and their families longingly gaze at each other through a window pane for two months, which is the closest they've come to seeing their families. In the next couple of weeks, we will begin developing a plan for visitation. Keep in mind that if visitation is attainable, it comes with government restrictions which include limiting the number of visits each day to just 10% of residents, all visits to be held outdoors and only two visitors will be allowed to visit a resident at one time.

If able, based on all of the regulations, we hope we are permitted to begin visitation sometime in mid-late August. In the meantime, statewide nursing home & assisted living representatives are reaching out to nursing home administrators to identify obstacles keeping them from opening for visitation.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support. Again, we will do everything we can to move forward while keeping our residents health & safety as top priority at all times.

#ProtectOurHouse

