

February 24, 2022

Family members, guardians, and/or loved ones:

We hope this communication finds you and yours healthy and well. We are happy to begin to see some semblance of normalcy; however, we must continue to mitigate the effects of Covid-19, by remaining vigilant in measures to keep people safe (i.e. physical distancing, masking, proper and frequent hand washing, etc...), despite a person's vaccination status. In acknowledgment of the fact that the vaccines, including boosters, are readily available and Covid-19 data as of late is trending in a better direction, we have updated our visiting procedures. We will continue to monitor Covid-19 data, as well as guidance from IDPH for providers, in order to assess and update visiting procedures as needed.

We would appreciate that you keep in mind that due to the fluid nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, all guidelines and criteria outlined are subject to amendment based on updated guidance, as well as the health needs of people supported. In addition, all visits will be suspended in the event on an identified positive case of Covid-19, until the recovery of those in the home, according to The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) requirements. Furthermore, visits will need to be discontinued if the guidelines are not followed. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate network leadership team that provides care for your loved one.

To continue to ensure the health and safety of people we support, procedures regarding visits will need to vary based on a person's vaccination status. There are two primary vaccination status categories at this time: "up to date with vaccinations", and "not up to date with vaccinations", as outlined below:

- **Up to date with vaccinations:** A person has **received all recommended Covid-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s)** when eligible.
- **Not up to date with vaccinations:** **Despite the number of doses** of the Covid-19 vaccine a person has received, they **have not had a booster** dose of the vaccine.

Visits at Trinity:

- We are asking that all visits continue to be pre-arranged/pre-planned with the applicable Network's leadership staff.
- The status of the home (quarantine, health status, etc...) will be taken into consideration when planning.
- A visitor screening will be completed while discussing arrangements and upon arrival, inclusive of current and recent health status, as well as travel.
- If a visit is able to continue at this time based on screening as noted above, visitors will be limited to two people at a time.
- While visiting, masking and physical distancing are required.
- Visits may occur in-home at this time, in a private closed-door area/location (i.e. own room). If such a location is not available, the Network Director will work with you to find an appropriate location for the on-site visit.
- Airflow will be maximized while visits are occurring. This may involve slightly opening windows.

Visits in the family/guardian's home, despite vaccination status:

- Visits may occur up to two times per month. While Trinity would like to operate without limits in place, we hope to be able to decrease the possibility of transmission from sources outside of Trinity as much as possible.
- Visits should be pre-arranged/pre-planned with the appropriate Network leadership staff.
- We are asking that families agree to continue to refrain from large gatherings, continue to wear masks-avoiding public places if someone is unable or declines to wear a mask, and if inadvertent exposure to Covid-19 occurs, notify the appropriate Network Director/Network leadership staff immediately for guidance.
- As before, visits may temporarily be suspended during Covid-19 surges within our local communities and/or within Trinity. Furthermore, this may change as a result of IDPH direction at any time.

In addition to the guidance above, please note additional information below based on vaccination status:

- **Up to date with vaccinations:** A person has **received all recommended Covid-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s)** when eligible.
- Someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days would also fall within this category during that period. Once 90 days have passed, current vaccination status would be the determining factor for following visiting guidance away from Trinity.
 - There is no designated requirement for length of visits
 - There is no return testing requirement unless exposure occurred
- **Not up to date with vaccinations: Despite the number of doses** of the Covid-19 vaccine a person has received, they **have not had a booster** dose of the vaccine.
 - Visits away from Trinity should be 5 days at minimum, which has decreased from a 10-day minimum previously.
 - Prior to arranging a return to Trinity, proof of a negative Covid-19 test must be provided. This can be a photo from a home test, if other options were not available.
 - Should your loved one test positive for Covid-19, they would not be able to return immediately to Trinity. Please coordinate with the applicable Network Director for further guidance.
 - As a further safety precaution, people returning from visits with family, will be tested for Covid-19, 5 days after return.

We are truly grateful for your continued support and simply cannot thank you enough for your collaborative efforts over the past few years in helping us keep your loved ones/family members safe. That is, has always been, and will continue to be our priority.

Sincerely,

