



**Dear Residents, Families and Friends,**

The St. Louis Altenheim continues to have Zero COVID positive cases among residents and staff; couple that with St. Louis City's low prevalence of 3.2% and we are currently able to make some additions/revisions to visitation procedures. We are extremely grateful to each of you and all our team members who have been working tirelessly to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Altenheim remains focused on prevention of COVID-19 and encourages everyone to get the vaccine as soon as possible. Please note, as with everything we have put into place over the past year, this process is very fluid and will change based on the guidance from the federal government, as well as the state and our local health department.

**OPTIONS TO VISIT LOVED ONES SAFELY**

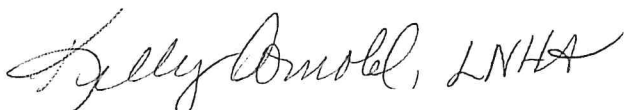
Those who are vaccinated are still at a low risk for contracting and spreading the virus to others because the vaccines are not 100% effective and it is unclear how those who are immune compromised may respond to the vaccine.

The following summarizes the revised interim visitation protocols. Please understand that these guidelines are subject to change based on any changes in the Altenheim's COVID-19 prevalence, increases in the county positivity rates and updates to state or local health department guidance.

**ALL VISITORS**

- Will be strongly encouraged to maintain visits outside, as recommended by CMS and the CDC. Because of restrictions on the size of groups, we must continue to require that visits be scheduled in advance with the front desk. At any time, the Altenheim may need to adjust the visitation time, duration, and days of the week that visits are permitted as required because of changes in guidance by the Department of Health, the CDC and CMS.
- Screening for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions *about and observations of* signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms *or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days, regardless of the visitor's vaccination status must remain as routine practice.*
- Requirements to continue to wear face covering or a mask covering mouth and nose remains in place.
- Are not permitted to eat or drink during the visit, as this would require the removal of the mask.
- Must be 18 years of age or older, as children are not able to be vaccinated at this time, are less likely to comply with proper infection control precautions and can be silent carriers of the COVID-19 virus.

We appreciate your continued patience as we find the balance between protecting all residents by taking a person-centered approach to core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and recognizing and adapting to the significant needs of residents and families to see each other and spend time together.

  
Kelly Arnold, LNHA