

COVID-19 Visitor Safety Directives for The Samaritan Center at Mount Holly

Welcome to The Samaritan Center at Mount Holly

As an organization we support your wish to visit your loved one. We do however need to make you aware of the **high risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus while you are visiting**. To help reduce the risk of exposing yourself and others in your home or to whom you may come into contact with, we are asking that you follow these important rules:

1. No personal items except for your keys and cell phone may be brought into the unit. This is to protect you from transporting the virus home on your belongings. The unit also does not have a **locked or monitored** area for you to store your personal belongings however you can place any additional personal items in our storage area near the unit entrance at your own risk.

2. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) requires that all persons who come into close contact with known individuals who have the COVID-19 virus must wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- ✓ Surgical mask
- ✓ Eye coverings
- ✓ Gown
- ✓ Gloves

** Upon entering the patient care hallway, the staff will instruct you on how to put on and take off your PPE and where to discard your used items.

3. Please do not remove any PPE during the entire time you are visiting with your loved one in their room.

4. You must remain in the room during the entire time you are visiting.

5. No food or drink can be brought into the room.

6. Refrain at all times from touching your face.

7. While we know this is extremely difficult please try to refrain from physical contact with the patient. In the event that you do, please immediately wash or sanitize your hands.

8. Prior to exiting the patient care hallway you will remove your face shield, gown and gloves and discard. Your mask must be worn until you exit the unit entirely at which time you can discard it, sanitize your hands and place your personal face covering/mask back on.

9. After you leave the unit please be more aware of social distancing and hand washing.

10. Upon arriving home it is highly suggested that you remove clothing immediately. This can be done either just outside the door (as in the garage) or immediately upon entering your home. Place your clothes into a plastic bag and seal it being careful not to shake your clothes in the process. You should also be wearing your normal face covering/mask during this process. Take the clothes to the laundry area and wash immediately or double bag until you can get to an outside laundry. You may wash these clothes with other dirty laundry however be sure to wash them in hot water. Wipe down the outside of the washer with a disinfecting wipe after placing the clothes in it, then be sure to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

11. Shower or bath.

Now what you CAN do:

1. Talk to your loved one while visiting with them. It is well established that hearing is intact almost until the time of death.

2. Play their favorite music

3. Read to them

4. Take care of yourself. We know it is very difficult to think of yourself. The truth is however, the PPE gets very hot and without the ability to have food and drink in the room you can become dehydrated. Please don't make yourself too uncomfortable under these conditions. Use your judgement and ask yourself what would your loved one want for you?

5. Be sure to have the phone number to the unit so you can get updates whenever you feel you need them.

6. Use our Social Work and Spiritual Support Counselors to help you through this very difficult time.

Thank you for your attention to these guidelines.

Please stay safe!