

**A.G. Rhodes Reopening Plan**

*Current as of Sept. 23, 2020*

Governor Brian Kemp, as well as other state and federal authorities with jurisdiction over nursing homes, have issued instructions and guidelines for phased approaches to reopening. Based on these instructions and guidelines, as well as considering the specific health and safety impacts on each of our homes due to our buildings' physical layouts and residents' specific needs, A.G. Rhodes has prepared a reopening plan. Among other information, our plan describes visitation status at the A.G. Rhodes homes according to criteria and circumstances which go from most restrictive to least restrictive. This plan, and visitation criteria, will be updated as necessary and to comply and align with state and federal guidelines, which are ever evolving. At any time and for the protection, safety and wellbeing of residents and staff, we may suspend or cancel visits, or move indoor visits outdoors.

Visit [www.agrhodes.org/visitationstatus](http://www.agrhodes.org/visitationstatus) to see what level of visitation we are currently accommodating, which is determined by various criteria listed below.

**VISITATION STATUS DESCRIPTION/CRITERIA**

- **Visitation Status: No Visitation**

- If the severity of an outbreak and/or other risk factors would pose too great of a risk to the health, safety and/or wellbeing of residents and/or staff, non-essential visitors will not be permitted for either outdoor or indoor visitation. *Please note that federal and state guidelines currently define an outbreak as one or more cases.*

- **Visitation Status: Outdoor Visitation**

- Since Early July (Atlanta and Cobb) and August (Wesley Woods) our homes have been facilitating outdoor visitation. Outdoor visitation will continue, and indoor visitation in a designated area will be phased in as long as certain criteria are met and as operational capacity allows.
- There should be no severe outbreak of COVID-19 or other infectious illnesses (e.g. norovirus, influenza, C.difficile, etc.).

- **Visitation Status: Indoor Visitation in Designated Area**

- Indoor visitation ONLY in designated areas may occur if certain criteria are met. These criteria are set by federal and state guidelines and include:
  - The county positivity rate (rate of positive COVID-19 cases) must be below 10 percent for 14 days; AND
  - At least 14 days have passed since the last confirmed resident or staff case.  
*A.G. Rhodes will use county data from the Georgia Department of Public Health and will update our status in relation to this information at least weekly on our website at [www.agrhodes.org/visitationstatus](http://www.agrhodes.org/visitationstatus).*
- There should be no severe outbreak of infectious illnesses.
- Designated areas will be staged to accommodate private visitations however a staff member must still be present at a reasonable distance to ensure that all safety precautions and visitation guidelines are being maintained.

- **Visitation Status: Less Restrictive to Full Visitation**
  - In accordance with state and federal guidelines, visitation is currently limited to indoor visitation in a designated area. As Governor Kemp and other state and federal authorities with jurisdiction over nursing homes issue guidance for further easing of visitation and reopening restrictions, we will update this plan accordingly.

## **VISITATION GUIDELINES**

Visitors must abide by A.G. Rhodes' visitation guidelines, which will be updated as necessary to comply with state and federal guidelines. Visit [www.agrhodes.org/coronavirus/for-families](http://www.agrhodes.org/coronavirus/for-families) to access the latest guidelines, which include scheduling an appointment, limiting visitors, wearing a face mask, socially distancing and more. Non-compliance with guidelines may result in additional precaution/restrictions placed.

## **COVID-19 TESTING AND VISITATION**

In accordance with federal and state guidelines, we are conducting frequent staff and resident COVID-19 testing. We know that frequent testing helps us better manage the spread of COVID-19 particularly in identifying those individuals who test positive but are asymptomatic. To facilitate indoor visitation, at least 14 days must have passed since the last confirmed positive resident or staff case (*please note that one or more positive cases is defined as an outbreak*). At any time we may move indoor visitation to outdoors, or stop visitation all together, depending on the ongoing results of our frequent COVID-19 testing. Prior to visiting, we encourage visitors to get a COVID-19 test and confirm that they are negative for the virus.

## **RESIDENT RESUMPTION OF DAILY ACTIVITIES**

As the county positivity rate improves and as we continue successfully mitigating the risks of COVID-19, we are carefully resuming daily resident and communal activities ONLY in small groups while adhering to six feet social distance spacing between residents. This includes the use of the rehab gyms, and other communal spaces.

## **UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

We will remain transparent and frequent in our communications regarding reopening, and we will continue notifying families with updates and posting them online at [www.agrhodes.org](http://www.agrhodes.org). We recognize the physical and emotional toll that isolation— particularly from family members and loved ones —has taken on our residents and we will do everything we can within the regulatory framework to continue to support them. Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your loved one, particularly during these challenging times.

## **REFERENCES:**

**State guidance:** [Click here](#) to access the Georgia Department of Public Health's Long-Term Care Facility Reopening Guidance.

**Federal guidance:** [Click here](#) to access the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Visitation Guidance.