



October 28, 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

I am sure that by now, many of you are hearing about nursing homes being “opened” for visitation. Several newspapers have reported the new policy from the government. While some of the nursing homes in our area have started allowing visitation, the assumption is that all should be doing the same. This is not so. Every nursing home has its own plan and its own circumstances. All nursing homes must follow the State and Federal regulations.

Before I describe how visitation will occur, let me first say the obvious. Keeping our residents, their families and our larger community isolated from each other has been a massive burden on many levels. Seeing the impact of this burden of separation does not deter us from our efforts to keep every resident and staff member safe.

The government has defined three types of personal visit:

1. **Compassionate care:** This is typically end of life or other factors severely impacting the resident. We will initiate these visits with families.
2. **Outdoor Visits:** Scheduled in advance. Weather permitting.
3. **Indoor Visits:** Scheduled in advance on set days and times.

There are two primary circumstances that will delay inside visitation:

- Positive cases of COVID in the building
- A COVID positive testing county rate that is “red zone” [10%+ positive test rate]

We have no positive COVID cases at Wheat State, but Butler County is a “**red zone**” county right now, so only Compassionate Care visitation is possible.

When the testing positivity rate drops to yellow or green, Indoor Visitation will be possible by appointment only. We will notify you when those restrictions have been relaxed and what the procedure will be for making appointments. There are strict guidelines that govern these visits. ***If a visitor violates the guidelines, their visitation will be ended immediately, and will not resume until the pandemic is over.***

In the meantime, we still offer telephone, video calls and window visits.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Smith".

Michael E Smith
Administrator