

Procedure Title: Clergy Visitation during Public Health Emergency

Procedure: During a Public Health Emergency ("PHE") (which is a declaration made pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers, R.S. 29:760 et seq.), Gardens of Somerset permits members of the clergy¹ to visit residents during a declared PHE when a resident, or his legal or designated representative, requests a visit with a member of the clergy, subject to the following conditions and requirements:

1. Gardens of Somerset will adopt reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions for clergy visitation. These restrictions will be set in consultation with appropriate medical personnel, for the purpose of mitigating the possibility of transmission of any infectious agent or infectious disease or for the purpose of addressing the medical condition or clinical consideration of an individual resident.
2. Gardens of Somerset will give special consideration and priority for clergy visitation to residents receiving end-of-life care.
3. Gardens of Somerset may screen the clergy member for infectious diseases, utilizing at least the current screening or testing methods and protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), as applicable. If there is a current Louisiana State Health Office ("SHO") order or emergency notice that requires more rigorous screening or testing methods, or protocols, then Gardens of Somerset will utilize those methods and protocols.
4. A clergy member may not be allowed to visit a resident if the clergy member has obvious signs or symptoms of an infectious agent, or infectious disease, or if the clergy member tests positive for an infectious agent, or infectious disease.
5. The clergy member may not be allowed to visit with a resident if the clergy member refuses to comply with the provisions of Gardens of Somerset's policies and procedures, or refuses to comply with Gardens of Somerset's reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.
6. The clergy member may be required to wear PPE as determined appropriate by Gardens of Somerset, considering the resident's medical condition or clinical considerations.
7. Clergy visitation may be limited during a declared PHE pursuant to a Louisiana SHO order or emergency notice and/or pursuant to any governor's executive order or proclamation.
8. Residents have the right to consensual, nonsexual physical contact such as hand holding or hugging with a member of the clergy.

¹ "Clergy" is defined as: (a) a minister, priest, preacher, rabbi, imam, Christian science practitioner; or (b) other similar functionary of a religious organization; or (c) an individual reasonably believed to be such a clergy member by the person consulting him.

9. Subject to the conditions and requirements set forth above, any visitation by clergy will be subject to compliance with any federal law, regulations, requirements, orders, or guidelines issued by any federal government agency during a declared PHE.

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