

## Dacier Manor In-Person Visitation – R

Revised March 2024 to reflect the current CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance intended for persons in non-healthcare communities

### **Policy Statement**

The administration and staff of Dacier Manor understand the importance of the residents in our Assisted living Facility (ALF) having the ability to spend time with loved ones, family and friends. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) indoor general visitation for ALF residents was restricted in an effort to protect the health and safety of the residents and of the staff who are essential to the provision of the care and assistance required by our residents.

This Dacier Manor visitation policy reflects the provisions of the April 6, 2022, State of Florida Senate Bill 988, "No Patient Left Alone Act." In accordance with that act, Dacier Manor will not restrict regular visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause consistent with F.A.C. Rule 59A-36.007 (10) infection Control Procedures and Florida Statutes Chapter 429.28 (d) Resident Bill of Rights. The policy also reflects the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Respiratory Virus Guidance that provides practical recommendations and information to help people lower health risks posed by a range of common respiratory viral illnesses including: COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Dacier Manor policies will continue to be revised to reflect updates in the regulatory guidance for Assisted Living facilities in Florida.

Dacier Manor administrative staff will provide their visitation policies and procedures to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) when applying for licensure renewal or change of ownership. For visitor educational purposes, Dacier Manor makes the visitation policies and procedures accessible from the homepage of their website.

### **Procedures:**

#### **In-Person Visitation and Visitor Education**

1. Dacier Manor is an assisted living facility (ALF) designed to provide personal care services in the least restrictive and most home-like environment possible while providing services to its residents in accordance with the laws and rules of the State of Florida with oversight by the State of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration.
2. Dacier Manor administration and staff adhere to the Florida Statutes Chapter 429 Part I governing Assisted Living Facilities. Section 429.28 of the law details the Resident Bill of Rights that Dacier Manor abides by. Dacier Manor staff honor the visitation rights of their residents and ensure that facility residents are assured under item (1) (d) of the law: "Unrestricted private communication, including receiving and sending unopened correspondence, access to a telephone, and visiting with any person of his or her choice, at any time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at a minimum. Upon request, the facility shall make provisions to extend visiting hours for caregivers and out-of-town guests, and in other similar situations."
3. Residents are advised in the Dacier Manor Handbook that visitors are made welcome at any reasonable hour with typical visitation hours being from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm. As a security measure for residents, the entrance and exit doors are locked at 9:00 pm; however, visitation at Dacier Manor is allowed outside of these hours for visitors who request admittance by ringing the doorbell at the front entrance. There is no limitation placed on the number of visitors a resident may receive.

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4. If a resident and their visitor wish to continue the visit beyond 9:00 pm when in a shared room, the visit may be continued outside the room in a suitable location in the facility to allow for the privacy of the roommate.
5. Dacier Manor does not prohibit consensual physical contact between a facility resident and their visitor(s).
6. In accordance with F.S. 408.823 (2) (a), education is provided to visitors on the importance of proper hand hygiene when visiting their resident. The use of alcohol-based hand rub or handwashing with soap and water should be completed before and after visiting.
7. Visitors are educated to report to Dacier Manor staff if they are experiencing any common symptoms of respiratory viral infection and may be requested to delay their visit, if possible, to ensure the safety of Dacier Manor residents. The most common symptoms noted by the CDC include but are not limited to: chest discomfort, chills, cough, a decrease in appetite, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, headache, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat, vomiting, weakness and/or wheezing.
8. Educational signage for visitors on hand hygiene and other infection control measures such as cough etiquette, maintaining up-to-date with vaccines, symptoms of respiratory viral illness, etc. is available in the facility.
9. The Dacier Manor Manager is responsible for ensuring that all staff adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in this document.

### **Designation of and In-person Visitation by an Essential Caregiver**

In accordance with the April 6, 2022, State of Florida, SB 988, “No Resident Left Alone Act,” Section 2. Section 408.823, (2) (b) Florida Statutes, a Dacier Manor resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. Dacier Manor must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the Dacier Manor In-Person Visitation Policy.

The “No Resident Left Alone Act” does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident and the staff at Dacier Manor will not require an essential caregiver to provide such care. Residents have the right to decline to designate an essential caregiver; however, when designated, the identity of the essential caregiver will be documented in the resident’s record.

### **Special Circumstances Requiring In-Person Visitation**

In accordance with the April 6, 2022, State of Florida, SB 988, “No Resident Left Alone Act,” Dacier Manor must and will allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances unless the resident/patient objects:

- End-of-Life situations;

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- With a resident/patient who is struggling with a change in environment and the lack of in-person family support when having previously lived with family before admission to Dacier Manor;
- With a resident/patient is experiencing emotional distress or is grieving the loss of a friend or family member who has recently died;
- With a resident/patient who is in the process of making one or more major medical decisions;
- With a resident/patient who needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink when that assistance was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; and/or
- With a resident/patient who used to talk and interact with others who is now seldom speaking.

### **Infection Control Protocols**

Resident care including visitation at Dacier Manor will be conducted in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) Chapter 59A-36.007 (10) Infection Control procedures, whereby Dacier Manor must provide services in a manner that reduces the risk of transmission of infectious diseases. Under this rule, Dacier Manor must implement a hand hygiene program to be followed by staff before and after the provision of personal services to residents whenever there is an expectation of possible exposure to infectious materials or bodily fluids. Hand hygiene may include the use of alcohol-based rubs, antiseptic handwash, or handwashing with soap and water.

Dacier Manor staff will use standard precautions when there is an anticipated exposure to transmissible infectious agents in blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes during the provision of personal services. Standard precautions include: hand hygiene and, dependent upon the exposure, use of gloves, gown, mask, eye protection and/or a face shield.

Dacier Manor staff will observe residents and visitors for signs and symptoms of possible respiratory viral illness in order to take preventive measures to inhibit spread of illness in the community. Staff with illness will be requested to remain at home until they meet the current CDC guidelines for returning to normal activities.

In compliance with the F.A.C. Chapter 59A-36.007 requirements, Dacier Manor staff will clean and disinfect reusable medical equipment and communal assistive devices that have been designed for use by multiple residents before and after each use according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Respiratory Virus Guidance, March 2024**

For the protection of their vulnerable residents, staff and visitors, Dacier Manor administration has incorporated the most current respiratory virus guidance from the CDC for persons in non-healthcare community settings in their infection control protocols. This guidance provides practical recommendations to lower the risk to residents from common respiratory viral illnesses including Covid-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The core prevention strategies recommended by the CDC and currently in practice at Dacier Manor include:

- Encouraging residents and staff to stay up to date with immunizations which means getting a current influenza and COVID-19 vaccine when available. Adults aged 60 years and older are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider about whether an RSV vaccine is right for them.
- Urging residents and staff to practice proper hygiene by performing frequent handwashing, covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throwing used tissues away in a trash receptacle and cleaning frequently touched surfaces regularly such as countertops, handrails and doorknobs.

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- Taking steps for providing an environment with cleaner air by bringing in fresh outside air, purifying indoor air or encouraging residents to gather outdoors for visiting or for group activities. Virus particles do not build up in the air outdoors as much as they do indoors.
- Preventing the spread of respiratory viruses when residents or staff are ill by: staying away from others when experiencing symptoms that may represent a respiratory virus; using masks to protect others from illness; remaining away from others until symptoms are improving and fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication; taking added precautions for 5 days once returning to normal activities such as taking steps for cleaner air, hygiene, masks, physical distancing and/or testing when around other people indoors.
- Wearing a mask can help lower the risk of respiratory virus transmission. When worn by a person with an infection, masks reduce the spread of the virus to others. Masks can also protect wearers from breathing in infectious particles from people around them.
- To help lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus encouraging physical distance between residents is an important strategy. According to the CDC, there is no single number that defines a “safe” distance. In order to be safe residents are urged to avoid being near someone who has respiratory virus symptoms. Residents are also advised to avoid crowded areas where they may be unable to maintain physical distance especially when respiratory viruses are causing illnesses in the Dacier Manor and/or surrounding Advent Christian Village community.
- Testing for respiratory viruses is an important approach that can help in decision-making for seeking anti-viral treatments and for implementing preventative strategies for lowering the chances of viral spread to others.