



April 1, 2024

Hello everyone,

We are happy to announce that effective today, Monday, April 1, 2024, we are out of outbreak status and for the time being, able to relax our masking rules, so wearing masks during visits to the Meadows and Mayflower House will be optional. Please do continue to screen upon entering, as those requirements remain in place. And please, if you are experiencing cold symptoms or any type of illness, please refrain from visiting until you are feeling better.

Please note that if going to a resident's room with a STOP sign on the door requesting that you see a nurse before entering, you will need to wear a mask and/or other PPE to enter that resident room. They are on isolation precautions that may be unrelated to COVID-19 that must continue to be adhered to.

We hope this can remain in place for a long while, but please understand if we start to see positive cases, we may need to go back to masking again.

Also, please see the attached flyer related to a new federal regulation going into effect April 4<sup>th</sup>. For some residents who are compromised due to wounds, catheters or feeding tubes, staff will be required to utilize more PPE when doing some direct care. This should not affect you when visiting, but please see a nurse if you do have any questions.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation.

Mary Ellen

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# Keeping Residents Safe – Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions

**A message from:**

**Dear Residents, Families, Friends, and Volunteers:**

You may have noticed new signs on some doors that say “Enhanced Barrier Precautions” and staff wearing gowns and gloves more often. We’re doing this based on new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect our residents and staff from germs that can cause serious infections and are hard to treat. You may have heard these germs called multidrug-resistant organisms or MDROs in the news.

Studies have shown that more than 50% of nursing home residents have these germs on or in their body, especially in places where the skin is broken, such as wounds or insertion sites of medical devices like feeding tubes. Most of the time people never know they are carrying these germs but under certain conditions they can enter the body and cause serious infections.

Fortunately, there are many things we can do to keep these germs from spreading, but we need your help! Two important practices are:

- 1. Cleaning our hands.** Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can kill these germs and keep us from spreading them with our hands. This is why we remind you and your visitors to frequently clean your hands.
- 2. Using gowns and gloves.** Since we can’t wash our clothes between caring for residents, gowns and gloves help keep these germs from getting on our clothes and spreading to others when we are having close contact with residents. This is why you might see us wearing a gown and gloves when we are performing transfers or other activities involving a lot of contact with a resident. Just because we are wearing a gown and gloves doesn’t mean that a resident is carrying one of these germs. We also wear them to protect residents who might be more vulnerable to developing a serious infection if exposed to these germs. We will also wear them if we expect a care activity to be messy, like if we are changing a dressing on a wound.

To support these practices, you will see more alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers, carts to hold clean gowns and gloves, and trash cans so we can change gowns and gloves between residents. You will also see more signs to help remind staff when they should be wearing gowns and gloves.

We are always happy to answer any questions you might have about actions we are taking to protect our residents and staff and appreciate your support!

**Please contact us with additional questions at:**

Sincerely,

To learn more about Enhanced Barrier Precautions, please visit **Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs)** at <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>.