



BROAD REACH **OUTSIDE ACCESS ■ COVID-19** LIBERTY COMMONS

It is the policy of the organization to provide Liberty Commons' residents and patients with the opportunity to access outdoors following federal and state regulatory agency guidelines for transmission-based precautions during COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose and objectives of this policy it to afford a safe environment for residents during approved outside access and delineate the parameters for a safe outdoor quality time for residents while maintaining infection control practices and transmission-based precautions instituted by regulations and other guidance related to COVID-19 pandemic mitigation efforts.

This does not permit non-employees (visitors, family members, friends) to utilize the outdoor space with the resident. Liberty Commons' Essential Visitor Policy and Procedure remains in effect and must continue to be enforced. Communal use of these spaces also continues to be prohibited.

Procedures:

The Outdoor Spaces Are Designated Specifically:

- To minimize cross-contamination and exposure of residents from separate units, specific outdoor spaces are designated for each unit:
 - OYSTER POND WEST utilizes the outdoor area off the West dining room as well as a small paved garden off the West hallway.
 - OYSTER POND NORTH uses the center courtyard space as its dedicated outdoor space. Residents from OPN enter the courtyard ONLY through the greenhouse door.
 - STAGE HARBOR uses the center courtyard space as its dedicated outdoor space. Resident and staff use the SH elevator and access through the main dining room (MDR) courtyard entrance.
 - PLEASANT BAY uses the main courtyard space as a dedicated outdoor space. Patient and staff use the PB elevator and access through the MDR courtyard entrance.
- Housekeeping increases the frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces in both elevator as well as MDR door and other surfaces, including those in the courtyard.

Pleasant Bay East patients or any patient under a 14-day surveillance following admission or outside appointment are not permitted to access any of the outdoor spaces for the duration of their surveillance stay.

COVID+ residents and patients (in the dedicated COVID+ care area) continue to be under strict isolation precautions and are not permitted to access any of the outdoor spaces until/unless recovered and returned to a COVID- bed.

In effort to offer as many residents and patients the opportunity to access outdoor spaces, it may be necessary to limit the length of time an individual may spend in any of these outdoor spaces. Access to the center courtyard outdoor space, utilized by OPN, SH and PB, will be allocated fairly between the units – a maximum 2 residents/patients in the space at the time -- on opposite sides of the courtyard to ensure maintenance of social distancing.

All residents and patients will be offered the opportunity to access outdoors. The activities department would be the only department facilitating these times. The activities department will continue with consistent staff for each unit. Activities staff facilitates the schedule of outdoor visits as well as conducts a supervision/assistance during these visits outdoors. Residents must be accompanied outside the entire time.

Resident **MUST** wear a mask during the entire time (outdoors as well as during transport through the building). If unable or not willing, he/she may not utilize the outdoor space and must return indoors. The patient/resident must also perform hand hygiene prior to leaving his/her room and upon return (staff assisting as needed).

PPE:

- Accompanying staff must don appropriate PPE (*as prescribed by applicable protocol for facility at the time*) when resident is transported to/from their room.
- This PPE must be worn during the entire time of the outdoor visit including the transfer from and back to the room.
- Once resident safely returns from the outdoor visit, staff removes PPE per policy/protocol and performs hand hygiene prior to exiting the resident's room.
- New PPE must be applied prior to accompanying another resident for an outdoor visit.

Outdoor access is scheduled by Activities Director or his designee. Outdoor visits shall be facilitated permitting staff availability and weather conditions.