



03/13/2021 Updated: 5/6/2021

Reopening Indoor Visitation Protocol

Purpose: Facility will follow CMS and OSDH guidelines and best practices for indoor visitation to allow residents/patients to meet mental and psychosocial needs with family and friends.

Facility Preparedness Prior to Indoor Visitation:

- a) Facility will have a HIPAA compliant list of vaccinated and unvaccinated residents/patients available for staff to use to determine visitation allowances.
- b) Hand sanitizer will be in resident/patient rooms that will be having in-room visitation.
- c) Hand sanitizer will be available at each visitation station and throughout the facility.
- d) Instructional signage will be placed in visitation areas that address the following:
 - COVID-19 signs and symptoms
 - Infection Control Precautions
 - Proper mask usage
 - Proper Hand hygiene
 - Entry & Exit signage

Indoor Visitation Protocol

1. All visitors must have access of the Essential Caregiver training **PRIOR** to initial visitation. Essential Caregiver training is not mandatory but highly encouraged.
2. Visitors are not required to be COVID-19 tested or show proof of vaccination as a condition of visitation.
3. **Compassionate care visits will be allowed at all times for all residents, vaccinated or unvaccinated. Compassionate care visits are not just for end of life, but are just as necessary for physical, mental and psychosocial difficulties and/or decline. These visits are necessary and should not be an exception.**
4. Indoor visits with residents/patients will be scheduled in advance and are dependent on availability of indoor space and appropriate staffing to meet resident/patient care needs.
5. Each visitor will be screened for fever or respiratory or other COVID-19 symptoms prior to the resident/patient being transported to the designated indoor visitation space.
6. Each visitor will go through a sanitization station and have his/her temperature taken prior to visitation.
7. Residents and visitors may visit without distancing and without wearing masks if alone in the resident's room if the resident and visitors are fully vaccinated.
8. If the resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their unvaccinated visitor(s) while both continue to wear well-fitted masks.
9. When both residents and their visitors are fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) and are not required to wear a mask while in resident's room.
10. Upon entry into a facility, visitors **MUST** continue to wear a well-fitted mask and physically distance from other staff members and residents that are not a part of their group at all other times while in the facility.
11. Any individual with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (refer to visitor screening log) will not be permitted to enter the facility to the indoor visitation area, or have in-person visits with a resident/patient.
12. Visitors will provide contact information on the screening log to assist in contact tracing if needed.

13. Visitors will be asked to sign a “Attestation Statement” with a liability waiver prior to entering the visitation area. If visitor refuses to sign, document the refusal and maintain documentation in the visitation file. Visitation will be denied.
14. Visitors will be limited to no more than **four individuals** per resident/patient unless special arrangements have been made when the visit was scheduled.
15. Indoor, in-person visitation is permitted in designated, indoor visitation space with approval from local and state health departments per phase designation.
 - a) Unvaccinated residents/patients may not have indoor visitation if the COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10%
 - b) Unvaccinated residents may not have indoor visitation if less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated.
 - c) Residents/patients that have a confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, may not have visitation until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions
 - d) Residents/patients in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, may not have visitation until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.
16. Indoor visitation will be halted and facility-wide outbreak testing will be completed **if one or more staff member(s) or resident(s) tests** positive for Covid-19. Visitation can resume based on the following criteria:
 - a) If first round of outbreak testing reveals no other confirmed COVID-19 cases in other halls/units of the facility then visitation will resume in all other areas **EXCEPT the affected area. The affected hall/unit will have visitation halted until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.**
 - b) **If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in other halls/units of the facility, then the facility will suspend indoor visitation for all residents/patients, vaccinated and unvaccinated.**
17. Residents/patients being transported to indoor visitation areas will not move through a designated COVID-19 care space or space where residents/patients suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 are present.
18. Residents/patients that are fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact, including touch, with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask.
19. **Monitoring of visits: Is no longer required unless it is deemed necessary for the benefit of the resident.**
20. Visitors that cannot or will not adhere to social distancing when required and appropriate masking will be escorted from the premises.
21. Hand sanitizer will be provided at each designated indoor visitation space and visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene prior to visiting with residents/patients.
22. Any dividers, screens or hug stations will be sanitized after each use in visitation.
23. The length of time for visitation may be limited by facility, including the days on which visits will be permitted, the hours when visits will be permitted and the frequency during a day or week residents/patients may be visited.
24. Visitors are asked to inform the facility if they develop fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days after visiting the facility. IPCO will document and do any contact tracing.
25. Staff will screen any individuals who had contact with the visitor for the level of exposure and follow up with the Medical Director for guidance.
26. Federal and state surveyors will be permitted entry into facility unless signs and/or symptoms of COVID-19 are present. Surveyors must adhere to infection control practices. Proof of vaccination is not required.

27. Ombudsmen will be permitted entry into facility unless signs and/or symptoms of COVID-19 are present. Surveyors must adhere to infection control practices. Proof of vaccination is not required.