



Nursing Home Visitation Quick Reference

On November 11, 2021, CMS released [updated guidance](#) on visitation in nursing homes to immediately allow for in-person visitation for all residents at all times. The new guidance replaces any previous visitation guidance released by CMS. While nursing home visitation must continue to adhere to the core principles of infection prevention and some limitations may be necessary at times, such as limiting large gatherings or limiting visitation during outbreak according to recommendations from state or local public health, nursing homes that limit visitors without a reasonable clinical and safety cause may be cited under F563 Right to Receive / Deny Visitors.

General Visitation Guidance

- Visits and visitors must adhere to the Core Principles of Infection Prevention (below).
- Visitors must be screened for symptoms of or close contact exposure to COVID-19.
- Visitors should follow CDC nursing home and healthcare setting recommendations for isolation or quarantine to determine when the visitor may visit after a positive viral test or close contact exposure.
- Nursing homes may request testing or proof of vaccination but may not require testing or vaccination as a condition of entry.
- Visitors should practice hand hygiene, wear a well-fitting face mask or face covering, and practice physical distancing while visiting the nursing home.
- Residents and visitors may choose to remove masks or engage in physical contact during the visit but should be notified of the risks of these behaviors and should adhere to core principles of infection prevention at all other times.
- Nursing homes should avoid large gatherings and ensure that physical distancing can be maintained during visits.

Visits During Outbreak, Isolation, or Quarantine

- Visitors should be notified of the risks associated with visitation during an outbreak or to residents in quarantine or isolation.
- Visits should take place in the resident's room.
- Residents and visitors should wear a well-fitting face mask or face covering and practice physical distancing during the visit.
- Residents and visitors may choose to remove masks or engage in physical contact during the visit but should be notified of the risks of these behaviors and should adhere to core principles of infection prevention at all other times.

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose)
- Social distancing at least six feet between persons
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR 483.80(h) (see [QSO-20-38-NH-REVISED](#))