



# Safe Visitation Sample Policy Template

<b>Facility Name:</b>
<b>Facility Address:</b>

<b>Policy Name</b>	Safe Visitation Policy	<b>Policy No.</b>	
<b>Effective Date</b>		<b>Date of Last Revision</b>	
<b>Administrator Signature</b>		<b>Contact Information</b>	

Version History				
Version	Approved By	Revision Date	Description of Change	Author

## POLICY

**Facility Name** will provide indoor and outdoor visitation in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of **Facility Name** patient/resident and visitors is maintained at all times through the proper screening of visitors and adherence to safety measures during all visits.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all patient and resident friends and family, clergy, lay persons offering spiritual support, volunteers and other visitors. This policy will be revised as required by updates or changes to federal, state and local regulation and guidance.

## VISITATION GUIDANCE

### **Indoor Visitation**

- Patients and visitors should be educated regarding visitation hours, if applicable.
- Visitors should wear face coverings or masks, limit movement in the building and maintain physical distancing (maintain at least 6 feet between people) when around other residents or healthcare personnel, regardless of vaccination status.
  - If the nursing home's county COVID-19 community level of transmission is substantial to high, all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, at all times.
  - In areas of low to moderate transmission, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks and physically distance, particularly if either of them is at increased risk for severe disease or are not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.
  - Residents, regardless of vaccination status, can choose not to wear face coverings or masks when other residents are not present and have close contact (including touch) with their visitor.
  - Additional information on levels of community transmission is available on the CDC's COVID-19 Integrated County View webpage: [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list\\_select\\_state=all\\_states&list\\_select\\_county=all\\_counties&data-type=](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=)

### **Outdoor Visitation**

Preferred method when resident and/or visitor are not up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.

- Should take place in designated accessible and safe outdoor spaces such as courtyards, patios, if available.
  - Infection Control and Prevention practices should still be followed
  - Keep weather considerations such as inclement weather, excessive temperatures, poor air quality or an individual resident's health status in mind when considering outdoor visitation

### **Visitation of Residents on Transmission-based precautions or quarantine**

Not recommended but should be allowed if patient requests visitation. The following can be used as guiding principles during the visit:

- Visit should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated).
- Visitor should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident.
- Visitors should adhere to core principles of infection prevention such as proper hand hygiene, appropriate use of PPE, physical distancing measures.
- Facility may offer well-fitting facemasks or other appropriate PPE, if available, however, facility is not required to provide PPE for visitors.

### **Visitor Testing and Vaccination**

- All visitors should be strongly encouraged to become vaccinated
- Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated but during times of substantial or high levels of community transmission, testing can be offered to visitors, if feasible. If testing is not offered, visitors should be encouraged to be tested on their own before coming to the facility (preferably within 2-3 days).
- Link to [\(Add facility visitor testing requirements or offering to test.\)](#)

## **Outbreak Visitation** (Please ensure to base your policy on state and federal guidelines.)

When a new nursing home onset case of COVID-19 is identified, among staff or resident, the following steps are recommended:

- Facilities should contact their local health authorities for guidance or direction on how to structure their visitation to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during an outbreak investigation
- Visitors should still be allowed in the facility and should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation. Visitors should still adhere to core principle of infection prevention
- If resident would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they should wear face coverings or masks during the visit, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.

## **Compassionate Care Visits**

Compassionate care visits are allowed at all times.

## **Visitor Screening**

All visitors will be screened upon entrance to the facility. Visitors who have a positive test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19 or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should not enter the facility until they meet the criteria used for residents to discontinue transmission based precautions (quarantine).

(Please add your screening requirements here.)

Visitors who do not pass the screening criteria and/or refuse to follow all visitor guidelines will be asked to leave and not allowed further into the facility. Visitors who do not pass the screening criteria will be provided with information on when they will be eligible to return for additional screening.

All visitors will be provided with written and verbal education on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and who to notify if signs and symptoms develop during the visit, face coverings or mask requirements, contact and contactless visit recommendations, physical distancing, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, hand hygiene, PPE donning and doffing when applicable, and specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas within the facility.

Visitor understanding of education provided will be assessed through the use of the teach-back method by asking visitors to state in their own words what they understand about the visit process and requirements.

## **Screening Procedure** (Suggested steps are included below. Modify to your facility's procedure.)

1. Ask each visitor to identify themselves, show approved identification and provide contact telephone and address.
2. Ask each visitor the screening questions
3. Take and record each visitor's temperature
4. Review visit guidelines and ask each visitor to confirm they are able to follow all visit guidelines
5. Review education material and confirm visitor understanding using Teach-Back
6. Complete screening log
7. Provide each visitor with a clean surgical/procedure mask and observe use of alcohol hand sanitizer
8. Escort visitor to the visiting area,
9. Inform patient/resident and visitor if there is a time limit to the visit.
10. Review guidelines for exiting the facility at the end of the visit time.

## **Related Policies** (Add additional policies that are specific to your facility.)

- Protocol for Visitor Use of Restrooms
- Environmental cleaning between visits
- Group and Communal Activities

## **Resources**

[QSO-20-39-NH REVISED \(cms.gov\)](#) Accessed 7/8/2022

[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes](#) Accessed 7/8/2022