

Safe Visitation Sample Policy Template

Facility Name

[Company Address]

YOUR LOGO

Policy Name	Safe Visitation Policy		Policy No.	
Effective Date		Date Of Last Revision	Version No.	
Administrator Signature			Contact Information	

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 well-being of **Facility Name** patients/residents and visitors is always maintained through the adherence to principles of infection prevention during all visits.

Scope

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

Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- [Facility name] will provide guidance (e.g., posted signs at entrances) about recommended actions for visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Visitors with confirmed COVID-19 infection or compatible symptoms should defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they meet CDC criteria for healthcare settings to end isolation. For visitors who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection, it is safest to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until 10 days after their close contact if they meet criteria described in CDC healthcare guidance (e.g., cannot wear source control).
- Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred).
- Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Instructional signage is provided throughout the facility and proper visitor education is conducted on COVID-19 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 to COVID-19 care).
- Resident and staff testing conducted as required at 42 CFR § 483.80(h) (see QSO- 20-38-NH).

Visits

Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow. For outdoor visits, facilities should create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, such as in courtyards, patios, or parking lots, including the use of tents, if available. However, weather considerations (e.g., inclement weather, excessively hot or cold temperatures, poor air quality) or an individual resident's health status (e.g., medical condition(s), COVID-19 status, quarantine status) may hinder outdoor visits.

Indoor Visitation

Visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents. There is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time.

- Encourage physical distancing when there is a large gathering of visitors.

- **Face Coverings and masks during visits:**

If the county COVID-19 community transmission is high, everyone in a healthcare setting should wear face coverings or masks. If the nursing home's county COVID-19 community transmission is not high, the safest practice is for residents and visitors to wear face coverings or masks.

[Insert facility specific protocol here]

- Regardless of the community transmission level, residents and their visitors when alone in the resident's room or in a designated visitation area, may choose not to wear face coverings or masks and may choose to have close contact (including touch). Residents (or their representative) and their visitors will be advised of the risks of physical contact prior to the visit. If a roommate is present during the visit, it is safest for the visitor to wear a face covering or mask.
- While not recommended, residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine can still receive visitors. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident's room and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated). Before visiting residents, who are on TBP or quarantine, visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visitors should adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- **Visitor Testing** - While not required, we offer testing to visitors when the county level of community transmission is high. We encourage visitors to test on their own before coming to the facility.
- **Visitor Vaccination** – We encourage vaccination of all of our visitors to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We may ask about vaccination status of our visitors. Vaccination against COVID-19 is not required to visit in the facility. If a visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status against COVID-19, they should wear a mask within the facility at all times.

Outbreak Visitation (Please be sure to base your policy on state and federal guidelines.)

- While it is safer for visitors not to enter the facility during an outbreak investigation, visitors will still be allowed in the facility. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- If residents or their representative would like to have a visit during an outbreak investigation, they should wear face coverings or masks during visits and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.
- While an outbreak investigation is occurring, the facility will limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.
- Visitors should physically distance themselves from other residents and staff, when possible.

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

- Environmental cleaning between visits
- Group and communal activities

ADD NEW RESOURCE INFORMATION

Resources:

[QSO-20-39-NH REVISED \(cms.gov\)](#) Accessed 10/11/22

[Ref: QSO-20-38-NH REVISED 09/23/2022 \(cms.gov\)](#) Accessed 10/11/22

[Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#) Accessed 10/11/22

** It is the facility's responsibility to ensure the policy aligns with all federal, state, and local agencies.



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