



Visitation Guidance for DDS Residential Programs

Updated June 14, 2021

Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide visitation guidance for Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Residential Programs. On May 29, 2021, the Commonwealth lifted COVID-19 restrictions while maintaining necessary COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in certain settings, including residential and congregate care programs. This guidance replaces and supersedes all previous visitation guidance issued by DDS.

Guidance

Programs should return to pre-pandemic visitation practices and policies with the following exceptions:

- Visitors should be screened before entering the home. Any visitors with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 infection, a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or close contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status) will not be permitted to enter.
- While visitor vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.
- Settings should keep a daily log of names and contact information for all visitors.
- Appropriate safety, care, and infection control measures and policies should be in place for all visits.
- Visitation will be restricted if the resident has had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 10 days or is presumed positive. Visitation will also be restricted if there is a COVID-19 outbreak at the setting.
- Programs should communicate visitation guidelines to families and/or guardians and should continue to augment in-person visitation by supporting attempts by families and guardians to visit remotely using technology, including phone and video calls.
- Visitors must wear masks at all times indoors at the home except if fully vaccinated and visiting a fully vaccinated resident in their room.
 - *Fully vaccinated individuals are defined as 14 days or more after their final dose. In a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after their second dose. After a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after the single dose.*
- Residents who are fully vaccinated may visit with loved ones who are fully vaccinated without maintaining social distancing or wearing masks, if they choose.
- Guidance may be subject to change as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or local boards of health.