Visitation Guidance For Facilities While in an Outbreak/Being Monitored By Public Health after Positive Staff or Residents

Your facility is in Outbreak status and being monitored by public health due to positive staff or residents. During an outbreak visitation at your facility may continue for your non-exposed (green) residents. Your facility should continue to follow all the outbreak guidance recommended by the Contra Costa Public Health Department including response testing recommendations and ensuring your facility has done full contact tracing of exposures to the positive resident(s) or staff member(s). Outdoor visitation is preferred, but if it is not possible (e.g., inclement weather, poor air quality, resident inability to be moved outside, etc.), facilities can have indoor visitation for appropriate residents in residents’ rooms when roommates are not possible or large communal indoor spaces such as a lobby, cafeteria, activity room, physical therapy rooms, etc. where six-foot distancing is possible. While the facility is in an outbreak status each resident should only have one visitor at a time and the total number of visitors within the facility should be limited to the facility’s ability to safely accommodate and monitor those visitations while following the guidance in visitor guidance in the health officer letter regarding visitors, outings, and activities, your appropriate licensing body, and adhering to appropriate social-distancing and disinfection protocols.

Residents who are COVID-19 positive in isolation (red residents) may not have visitors during their quarantine or isolation period, with the exception of compassion care visitations which should always be allowed with appropriate PPE. Residents with identified exposures in quarantine or in observation after admission (yellow residents) maybe allowed to have visitors in-room in certain situations, in room with no roommate present, with consultation with public health, long as they wear appropriate PPE for area (full PPE) and follow all other infection control practices. Family caregivers who are part of care team of the resident are not considered visitors but an essential part of the resident’s care and should not be excluded from caring for the resident.

Residents who have had exposures or who are positive should be placed in the appropriate cohort, regardless of vaccination status. Facilities should provide alternative visitations for residents who cannot have visitors, such as virtual (phone, video-communication, etc), drive-by visits or visit through a person’s window, or other alternate visitation strategies. When the facility is not experiencing an outbreak, visitation policy should follow your appropriate licensing body (CDPH All facility letter on visitation, CMS Nursing Home COVID-19 Visitation Memo, DSS PIN 20-38 ASC Updated guidance on COVID –19 and Statewide waiver related to visitations, Community care and licensing COVID-19 Information and Resources) and the current visitor guidance in the health officer letter regarding visitors, outings, and activities which also takes into consideration resident vaccination status and county tier.
For visitors visiting residents who are not positive following should be implemented to allow for safe visit between residents and loved ones:

- Visitors must be informed of the COVID-19 status of the facility.
- Visitors must be appropriately screened prior to entry for COVID-19 symptoms, exposures, and a temperature check.
- Visitation should take place outside, as much as possible, and be in a location that allows for 6 feet or more of physical distancing. Surfaces (hand rails, chairs, tables, etc) should be sanitized after each visit between residents and visitors.
- Visitors and residents should wear masks during the visit and other appropriate PPE for cohort.
- All visitors and residents should wear appropriate facial covering during their visit and should maintain 6-ft physical distancing. Fully vaccinated visitors of fully vaccinated residents may have brief, limited physical contact with the resident (e.g., a brief hug, holding hands, assisting with feeding or grooming).
- If outdoor visitation is not feasible, and facility is able to accommodate indoor visitation, in addition to above:
  - Facilities should create a dedicated visiting areas in large communal spaces. As much as possible these areas should be near the entrance to the facility where residents can meet with visitors in a sanitized, well-ventilated area.
  - Each resident should have only one visitor within communal space at a time and total number of visitors within the facility should be limited to what is appropriate to maintain appropriate infection control and safety measures.
    - Physical barriers (e.g., clear Plexiglas dividers, curtains) may be used to decrease the risk of transmission.
  - Facilities should limit number of visitors per resident at one time, and limit total number of visitors in the facility at one time, and facilities should consider shorter visitor time for indoor visitations.
  - Facilities should disinfect rooms after each resident-visitor meeting.
- If outdoor visitation is not feasible, during an outbreak, indoor, in room visitations may also take place for fully vaccinated residents (e.g., individual residents who are ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) in “green” (unexposed or recovered) or “yellow” (exposed or observation status) areas, in consultation with public health, regardless of the county tier (including Tier 1, Purple) under Blueprint for a Safer Economy AND for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated residents in “green” (unexposed or recovered) or “yellow” (exposed or observation status), in consultation with public health, in Tier 2 (Red), 3 (Orange), or 4 (Yellow) counties.
  - Visits for residents who share a room should be conducted in a separate indoor space or with the roommate not present in the room (if possible), regardless of the roommate’s vaccination status.
- Facilities should limit movement in the facility by visitors and should have visitors go directly to designated visitation area or the resident’s room if the resident does not have roommates.
RE (Resident/Patient name):
Facility Name:
Facility Address:

You have requested to visit a resident at a facility with current COVID-19 positive resident(s) and/or staff that is being monitored by public health. Visitations are allowed for residents who are not COVID-19 positive and who have had no identified exposure(s) to a positive COVID-19 staff or resident while they were considered infectious (e.g. can spread the infection). The facility has reviewed the positive staff and resident interactions, and have determined that the resident you want to visit had no identified exposure. However, a risk remains that the resident you are visiting had an exposure that was not able to be identified during contact tracing process. If requested by you, and the facility has reviewed and cleared the request, you may be visiting a resident with an exposure and may be instructed to do further control measures to decrease chance of spreading the infection.

You understand by visiting the resident at the facility that you will only be allowed to visit with the resident outdoors or, if feasible and outdoor visitation is not available, within a designated visitation area in the facility or in the resident room if allowed based on resident/visitor vaccination status and the county tier, while the facility is being monitored by Public Health Department.

- You understand that the resident you are visiting has no identified direct exposure, but given the potential for exposures at the facility and monitoring status that they may have had an unknown exposure, and you may be exposed to COVID-19.
- You understand, if you have been cleared to visit a resident with an exposure, that you will need to wear all expected personal protective equipment and you may have a higher chance of being exposed.
  - You understand even if given a n95 facemask to wear during your visit that you may not get the full protection from the n95 mask if you have not been fit tested to that type of mask.
- You understand that if you are exposed to COVID-19, you would need to quarantine and you may also become sick with COVID-19.
- You understand that you must follow guidelines for the visit which include: 1) Conducting temperature and symptom screening prior to visit; 2) maintain physical distancing at all times (at least 6 feet or more for the resident), and 3) wearing a mask during the visit.

I have read and understand the information provided above.

_________________________________  ___________________________________
Name of Visitor                                                     Name of Patient/resident    Visiting

_________________________________
Signature of Visitor

Date