

February 9, 2022

As of February 8, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued updated guidance for visitation. This updated guidance reverts back to guidance previously in use prior to the Public Health Order of December 31, 2021.

Indoor Visits:

All visitors will be screened prior to entry for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 illness. If visitors present with fever or symptoms of illness you will be requested to postpone your visit until fever and symptoms are resolved.

Indoor visits are allowed under the following conditions:

A. Communities/facilities will need to:

(1) Verify visitors are fully vaccinated, or

(2) For unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated visitors, verify documentation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 test. Visitors who visit for multiple consecutive days are only required to provide proof of a negative test every third day (meaning testing is only required on day 1, day 4 and day 7, and so on).

B. Pursuant to the [CDPH Guidance for Vaccine Records Guidelines & Standards](#), only the following modes may be used as proof of vaccination:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date last dose administered); OR
- a photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; OR
- a photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device, OR
- documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; OR
- digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates and vaccine type.

C. Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated visitors are eligible for indoor visits by providing documentation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 test where the specimen collection occurred **within one day of visitation for antigen tests**, and **within two days of visitation for PCR tests and for which the test results are available at the time of entry to the facility.**

- Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated visitors with history of COVID-19 within the prior 90 days may provide documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in lieu of testing.
- In Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Adult and Senior Care Residential Facilities (licensed by the California Department of Social Services), if a resident is not able to leave their room or otherwise meet with visitors outdoors, the visitation may take place indoors, even for visitors who cannot provide vaccine verification or a negative test; however, these visits cannot take place in common areas, or in the resident's room if the roommate is present, and the visitor must wear a well-fitted mask with good filtration (N95, KF94, KN95, or surgical masks are preferred over cloth face coverings) and the resident must wear a well-fitting face mask at all times and physically distance.
- Visitors may use either PCR testing or antigen testing. Any PCR or antigen test used must either have Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Outdoor Visits:

Outdoor visits are allowed, regardless of vaccination status and do not require a negative test verification.

Alternative Visits:

Alternate visits such as virtual visits, zoom or phone visits are available as needed and can be coordinated by the individual community. Please contact the community ED for information on these visits should they be necessary.

Visitor Vaccination and Testing Requirement Exemptions:

The following visitors are exempt from the vaccination and testing requirements:

- Visitors who are visiting a patient in critical condition when death may be imminent.
- In emergent situations, support persons for a patient with physical, intellectual, developmental disability, or cognitive impairment.

Requirements for All Visitors:

The following requirements apply to all visitors:

- Wear a well-fitting face mask (a surgical mask, double masking or a respirator is recommended) at all times during any visitation at the community.
- Wear any other PPE while in the resident's room that community staff deem appropriate to the situation; and

- Physically distance from community staff and other residents/visitors that are not part of their group at all times during any visitation at the community.

The full requirements of the health order can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Requirements-for-Visitors-in-Acute-Health-Care-and-Long-Term-Care-Settings.aspx>

Local health departments may impose stricter visitation guidance during outbreak situations. We encourage you to visit your loved one living in our community as it is important for friends and families to be together, and we appreciate your anticipated cooperation with this new public health order.