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Visitation Fact Sheet - Skilled Nursing Facilities (nursing homes)

[CDPH All Facilities Letter 20-22.6](#) authorizes skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to temporarily modify their facility’s visitation policies in accordance with CMS and CDC COVID-19 guidance. Given progress with COVID-19 vaccination of SNF residents and healthcare personnel, CDPH recommends a cautious and gradual lifting of certain restrictions, while remaining vigilant for breakthrough infections and transmission in SNFs through ongoing surveillance and testing. This fact sheet provides a general overview of CDPH’s visitation recommendations. Please refer to [AFL 20-22.6](#) for more detailed information.

Note: Visitation rules are subject to county public health orders, which may be more restrictive.

Outdoor Visitation	Indoor Visitation	General Visitation Rules
<p>All facilities shall permit outdoor visitation.</p> <p>Outdoor visitation is preferred and should be offered unless the resident cannot leave the facility, or outdoor visitation is not possible due to precipitation, outdoor temperatures, poor air quality, or other issues.</p> <p>Facilities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate scheduled visits on the facility premises with 6-feet or more physical distancing, use of face coverings by both residents and visitors, and staff monitoring of infection control guidelines Limit the number and size of visits occurring simultaneously to support safe infection prevention actions If outdoor visitation is not possible due to inclement weather, poor air quality, or other issues, accommodate visitation in large communal indoor spaces (e.g., lobby, cafeteria, activity room, or physical therapy room where 6 feet of distancing is possible) 	<p>Facilities shall allow indoor, in-room visitation for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated residents, regardless of the county tier under Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated residents in “green” (unexposed or recovered) or “yellow” (exposed or observation status) area for facilities in counties under Tier 2 (Red), Tier 3 (Orange), or Tier 4 (Yellow) in the Blueprint. <p>Indoor visitation shall meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors in Tier 1 (Purple) counties for fully vaccinated residents must test negative on a POC antigen or PCR test on a sample taken within the prior two days, regardless of the visitor’s vaccination status. All visitors and residents should wear appropriate facial covering during their visit and should maintain 6-feet or more of 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). 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. Full personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn for yellow zone visitation. 	<p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must adhere to the CMS core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention (PDF) at all times Must enable visits to be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy Should schedule visits at times convenient to visitors <p>Any visitor entering the facility, regardless of their vaccination status, shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be screened for fever and COVID-19 symptoms, wear appropriate facial covering, and perform hand hygiene when in the facility If PPE is required for contact with the resident due to quarantine or COVID positive isolation status (including fully vaccinated visitors), it must be donned and doffed according to instruction by HCP If a visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or has been in close contact with a confirmed positive case, they must reschedule their visit <p>Support person visitors are encouraged (but not mandated), regardless of COVID-19 outbreaks, for residents with physical, intellectual, developmental disabilities and/or cognitive impairments.</p> <p>Specific individuals (e.g., healthcare workers, compassionate care visitors, Ombudsman) are exempt from a facility’s visitation restrictions. See AFL 20-22.6 for the full list of visitation exceptions.</p>