Requirements for Visiting Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Planning a visit to a hospital or nursing home? Here’s what you need to know. Read the full requirements.

Visiting a hospital? You must be fully vaccinated OR show a negative COVID-19 test

Visitors to hospitals must show proof of vaccination for COVID-19 or a negative COVID-19 test (taken within one day of visitation for antigen tests, or within two days of visitation for PCR tests).

The following exceptions may be permitted (but for no longer than 72 hours):

- Visitors for patients in critical condition, when death may be imminent
- In emergent situations, for parents or guardian visitors of pediatric patients
- For a support person for a patient with physical, intellectual, developmental disability or cognitive impairment
- For a support person for a labor and delivery patient; or a person visiting for bonding visits with a newborn and hospitalized parent.

Visiting a nursing home? You must be fully vaccinated or boosted¹ AND show a negative COVID-19 test

- Anyone visiting with a nursing home resident indoors must show BOTH proof of full vaccination/booster status AND a negative COVID-19 test (taken within one day of visitation for antigen tests, or within two days of visitation for PCR tests)
- Anyone visiting with a nursing home resident outdoors only must show a negative test.

ALL VISITORS, for any of the above settings, must wear a face covering and practice physical distancing at all times

- All visitors to any of the above settings must wear a well-fitting face mask at all times at the facility (a surgical mask, double masking or a respirator is recommended).
- All visitors must also physically distance from other patients/residents/visitors that are not part of their group at all times.

Some exceptions may apply. Read the full guidance.

¹Nursing home visitors who are eligible for a booster must also show proof of a booster.

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