

Long-term Care Visitation Guidance Flowchart for Exceptions to Indoor Visitation

3/17/2021

MDH has adopted the March 10, 2021, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance for visitation that applies immediately to nursing homes and assisted living-type settings, published in [QSO-20-39-NH Revised \(www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf\)](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf).

Long-term care facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, regardless of whether residents are vaccinated for COVID-19, except for a few instances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of spreading COVID-19. Exceptions for indoor visitation are shown in the flowchart below.

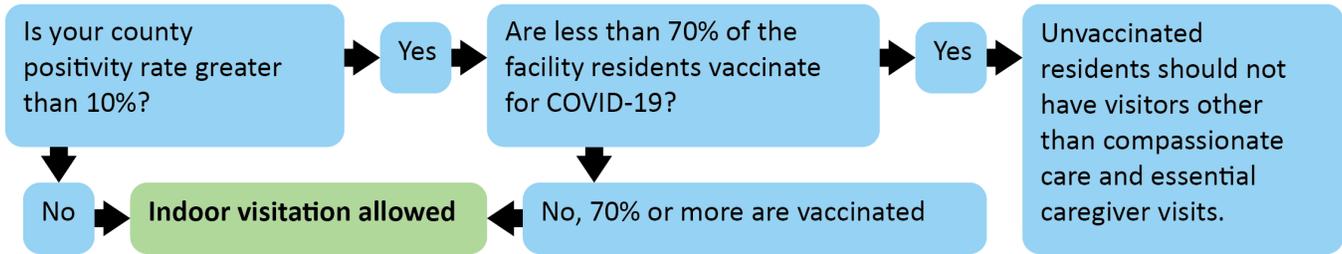
Facilities should consider how the ability to maintain the core principles of infection prevention is affected by the number of visitors received at one time per resident and the total number of visitors in the facility at one time (based on the building size and physical space). If necessary, facilities should consider scheduling visits for a specified length of time to help ensure all residents are able to receive visitors. During indoor visitation, facilities should limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility.

CMS and CDC continue to recommend facilities, residents, and families follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including staying at least 6 feet from others (physical distancing). This continues to be the safest way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, particularly if not everyone has not been fully vaccinated. However, it is acknowledged the toll that separation and isolation has taken. It is also acknowledged that nothing is a substitute for physical contact, such as a warm embrace between a resident and a loved one. Therefore, if a resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. Regardless, visitors should physically distance themselves from other residents and staff in the facility.

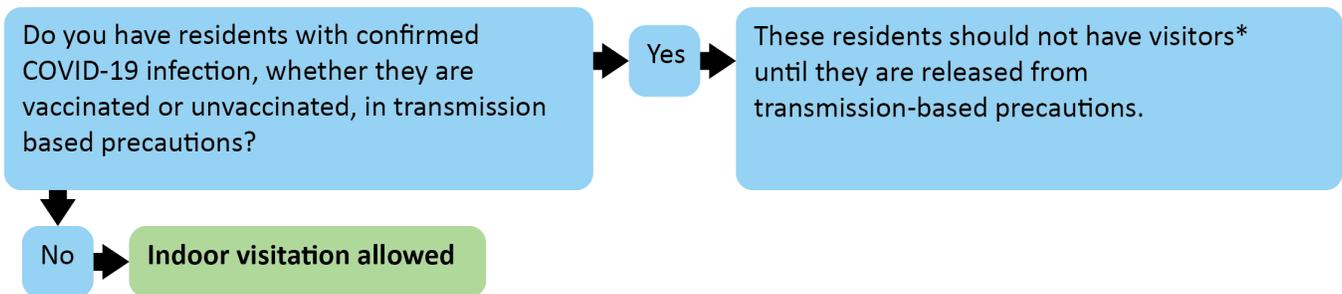
The decision trees below provide paths for visitation decisions.

LONG-TERM CARE VISITATION GUIDANCE FLOWCHART
FOR EXCEPTIONS TO INDOOR VISITATION

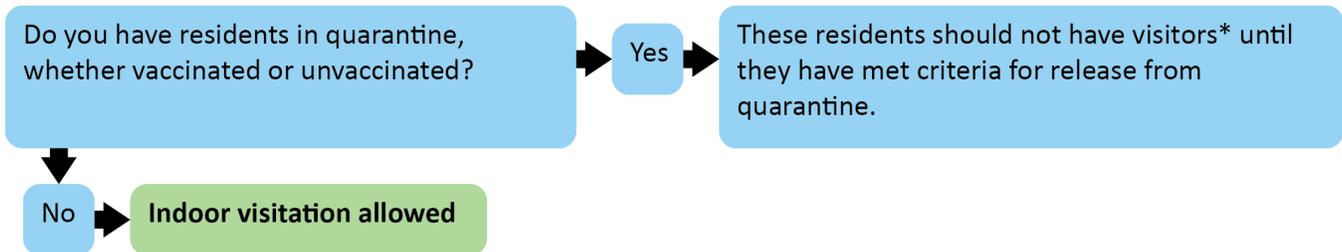
County Positivity Rate and Facility Vaccination Level



Residents with Active COVID-19



Residents in Quarantine



*Note: Compassionate care visits, essential caregivers, and visits required under state and federal disability rights laws, should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident’s vaccination status, the county’s COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.

Narrative for decision trees

County positivity rate and facility vaccination level

- If your county positivity rate is greater than 10%, and less than 70% of the facility residents are vaccinated for COVID-19, then unvaccinated residents should not have visitors other than compassionate care and essential caregiver visits.
- If your county positivity rate is greater than 10%, and 70% of the facility residents are vaccinated for COVID-19, then indoor visitation is allowed.
- If your county positivity rate is less than 10%, then indoor visitation is allowed.

Residents with active COVID-19

- If you have residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection in transmission-based precautions, whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated, these residents should not have visitors until they are released from transmission-based precautions.
Compassionate care visits, essential caregivers, and visits required under state and federal disability rights laws should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
- If you do not have residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated, indoor visitation is allowed.

Residents in quarantine

- If you have residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, then these residents should not have visitors until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.
Compassionate care visits, essential caregivers, and visits required under state and federal disability rights laws should be allowed at all times, regardless of a resident's vaccination status, the county's COVID-19 positivity rate, or an outbreak.
- If you do not have residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, then indoor visitation is allowed.



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Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.