

COVID-19 Guideline for Infirmiry Visits

Version 1, Revised 5/28/2021

Definitions

- For the purposes of this guideline, these infirmiry visits are for patients whose prognosis determined by the practitioner of 2-3 weeks or less.

Number of Visitors

- A maximum of 4 visitors will be allowed per individual, but only 2 at a time. Additional visitors can be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent and Facility Medical Director in discussion with the COVID-19 Medical Duty Officer.
- The patient can select any four approved visitors or as approved by the Superintendent. It does not need to be limited to immediate family or legal representatives and may include another incarcerated individual.

Visit Setting

- In general, accommodations should be allowed for these visits to take place at any facility where it is applicable. If the patient is on active quarantine or isolation, discuss with the COVID-19 Medical Duty Officer.
- Upon arrival of the visitor to the facility, they should be given a copy of the [COVID-19 Testing Information for Visitors of End-of-Life Infirmiry-Patients](#).
- The visit should occur in an area where the patient is in a room without other incarcerated individuals during the visit.
- Length of visit will be determined by the facility based on operations.
- The visit should occur in-person in the facility visiting room, IPU dayroom, or the patient's room depending on the clinical status of the patient as determined by medical.
- The visits will occur per usual protocol, but the door should be closed or mostly closed as possible to avoid COVID-19 transmission. Staff should remain outside the room or 12 feet or more away during the visit.

Screening, Testing, Hygiene & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The visitors will undergo active screening for COVID-19 prior to entering the facility.
- On the day of the visit, either the visitor/s will undergo COVID-19 rapid antigen testing or show documentation verifying a negative COVID-19 test within the past 72 hours. If a visitor refuses testing and fails to show adequate documentation of having undergone a recent COVID-19 test in the community, the visit can proceed, but 6-foot distancing shall be enforced.
- If a visitor test is positive, they should be turned away from the facility and if a follow-up in-person visit is not possible, a virtual visit should be arranged.
- The visitors will wear a DOC provided surgical mask with a face shield throughout the visit.
- The visitor and the patient will wash or sanitize their hands immediately prior to the visit. If necessary, the staff will assist the patient.
- The patient will wear a surgical mask, if medically appropriate (determined by the facility medical director) throughout the visit. If the patient has breathing problems or other medical reasons why a

mask cannot be worn, accommodations should be made in discussion with the COVID-19 Medical Duty Officer.

- The visitors should be allowed hand-holding and close contact with the patient unless the visitor did not undergo COVID-19 testing as outlined above.
- Hand hygiene of the visitors and patient should be done upon completion of the visit.
- The visitor should continue to wear their PPE until outside the facility.
- Otherwise follow normal protocols and policies in place for visiting.