

## Visitation Guidance for MRC Residential Programs

Updated June 14, 2021

### Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide visitation guidance for Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) Residential Programs. On May 29, 2021, the Commonwealth lifted COVID-19 restrictions while maintaining necessary COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in certain settings, including residential and congregate care programs. This guidance replaces and supersedes all previous visitation guidance issued by MRC.

### Guidance

Programs should return to pre-pandemic visitation practices and policies with the following exceptions:

- Visitors should be screened before entering the home. Any visitors with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 infection, have had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status) will not be permitted to enter.
- While visitor vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.
- Settings should keep a daily log of names and contact information for all visitors.
- Appropriate safety, care, and infection control measures and policies should be in place for all visits.
- Visitation will be restricted if the resident has tested positive, is quarantining, is presumed positive, or if the visitor has tested positive. Visitation will also be restricted if there is a COVID-19 outbreak at the setting.
- Programs should communicate visitation guidelines to families and/or guardians and should continue to augment in-person visitation by supporting attempts by families and guardians to visit remotely using technology, including phone and video calls.
- Visitors must wear masks at all times indoors at the home except if fully vaccinated and visiting a fully vaccinated resident in their room.
  - *Fully vaccinated individuals are defined as 14 days or more after their final dose. In a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after their second dose. After a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after the single dose.*

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- Residents who are fully vaccinated may visit with loved ones who are fully vaccinated without maintaining social distancing or wearing masks, if they choose.
- Guidance may be subject to change as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or local boards of health.