



Q & A

Updated Information on Visitation

March 19, 2021

Q: When and where is visitation allowed under the updated CMS Guidance?

You can visit your loved one when the positivity rate in Erie County is below 10%. If the positivity rate is higher than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are vaccinated, then only those residents who are fully vaccinated can receive visitors.

While indoor visitation is permitted in resident rooms, outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Q: Do visitors and/or residents have to be vaccinated to visit?

Vaccination is highly encouraged but is not required for visitation to occur.

Q: What do visitors need to know and do to visit with a loved one?

All visitors must adhere to the core principles of infection prevention:

- Screening upon entry to the facility
- Wearing of a well-fitting face mask or face covering at all times
- Observing social distancing measures when in the facility
- Limiting the number of visitors per resident at a time to help maintain social distancing measures
- Using proper and frequent hand hygiene
- Limiting travel through the building
 - Visitors should proceed directly to the resident's room and should not walk around different halls or areas of the facility

Visitors who do not adhere to these core principles will be educated on the importance of proper infection prevention. If non-compliance with these principles continues to be an issue, that visitor may be asked to leave and visitation may not be permitted until the visitor can comply.

Q: Can I hug my loved one?

Residents who are fully* vaccinated may choose to engage in physical contact with their loved one; face coverings must remain on at all times. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after any close contact.

**Fully vaccinated means those who have received the required number of doses and are two weeks past receiving their final dose.*

Q: Do residents still have to quarantine after leaving the building?

Quarantine measures may be implemented on a case-by-case basis. Residents who leave the building must follow the core principles of infection prevention.

In general, but subject to individual review:

- Fully vaccinated residents do not have to quarantine upon admission, after returning from an appointment, or after an outing
- Unvaccinated residents may be subject to quarantine upon admission and after an outing, which will be determined upon a case-by-case review of their exposure

If during the time away from the building, the core principles of infection prevention are not maintained and the exposure poses a high risk to others in the facility, quarantine measures will be considered regardless of vaccination status.

Q: Could visitation be restricted again?

As before, the new guidance allows for visitation when the county is under a 10% positivity rate. If the county positivity rate increases, limitations on visitation may be imposed.

If there is a new outbreak at the facility, visitation will be suspended until at least one round of outbreak testing is conducted. If testing shows that the case is isolated and/or contained to one area and there has been no further spread, visitation can resume for residents in the unaffected units. If testing reveals one or more additional cases in other areas, visitation will remain suspended for all residents until the criteria is once again met to resume visits.