



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY TITLE: INDOOR/OUTDOOR VISITATION

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION

POLICY:

To ensure residents and their visitors have safe, protected, and monitored indoor visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, and ensuring an adequate degree of privacy for residents and their visitors. All visits will be based on the COVID-19 status of Unique Rehab. Outdoor visitation is still preferred over indoor when possible. Visitation indoors will only occur if the following criteria are met:

- There must not be any new Unique Rehab-onset of COVID-19 cases in residents or staff. If Unique Rehab has only one case in resident or staff, then approval by the DC Health COVID-19 Healthcare Facilities Team will be required to start/continue indoor visitation.
- Unique Rehab must be participating in weekly staff testing as per DC Health requirements and achieve 90% compliance for at least two consecutive weeks.
- The resident being visited must not be undergoing quarantine (including observation) or isolation for COVID-19 exposure or infection respectively.
- Unique Rehab must not be undergoing testing related to a confirmed or suspected outbreak.
- Unique Rehab must have a 14-day supply of all personal protective equipment (PPE) that would be necessary to respond to an outbreak, without dependence on or public health stockpiles.

PURPOSE:

To provide a visitation program that is safe, minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission and as well considering the residents' physical, mental and psychosocial well-being.

PROCEDURES:

Prior to initiating indoor visitation

- Prior to initiating indoor visitation, residents, family members and resident representatives must be informed of the precautions being taken to keep residents safe. The notification should include:
 1. A description of the symptom screening process.
 2. All terms of indoor and outdoor visitation, including mask and social distancing requirements, how to summon staff if needed, and what will cause a visitor to be denied entry.
 3. Steps visitors must take before, upon arrival, and during their visit

When indoor visitation begins

- *All visits* are to be scheduled through the Social Services and Recreations personnel by calling or emailing the Social Services and Recreations Department contacts provided.
- Limit indoor visitors to people who can comply with mask and social distancing requirements.
- Children under the age of 18 must always be accompanied by a guardian and must be able to comply with face covering and social distancing requirements.
- Visitors during a given visit must only be from a single household.
- Visitors during a given visit must not be allowed to remain on-site and visit multiple residents.
- Visits must be no longer than 30 minutes.
- Require visitors to schedule an appointment for the visit to ensure that Unique Rehab can safely accommodate the number of people and have enough staff to ensure safety precautions are monitored and enforced.
- Greet visitors at a designated area at the entrance of the Unique Rehab where a staff member must:
 1. Screen all visitors and service providers.
 2. Perform temperature check and symptom screening.
 3. Visitors must be fever-free, symptom-free, and have no known exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

- Visitors must not be under quarantine after non-essential travel to a high-risk state as defined on [coronavirus.dc.gov/phase two](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phase-two), or for international travel to a Level 3 (high-risk) country as defined in the DC Health Travel Guidance.
- Ensure the visitor has a surgical mask covering or an N-95 that does not have an exhalation valve, and ensure the mask covers the visitor's nose and mouth.
- Have the visitor clean their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting Unique Rehab.
- Collect and document visitors' names, phone number, and room number of the person they are visiting and maintain records for 30 days to assist with contact tracing.
- Unique Rehab must be able to provide this information to DC Health within 12 hours of it being requested.
- Staff must escort the visitor to the designated visitation area.
- Visitors are not allowed into any other part of Unique Rehab.
- Deny entry to visitors or service providers who do not pass screening or who refuse to comply with any of the requirements.

During Indoor Visitation

- Visitors will enter through the main entrance and will follow the core principles of infection prevention. Individuals will be denied entry for those displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19, answering affirmative to screening questions or unable to adhere to the core principles.
- Visitors must wear cloth face coverings or masks during the entire visit and maintain 6 feet from the resident.
- Residents are always strongly recommended to wear cloth face coverings or face masks during the visit, including the transition to and from the indoor visitation location.
- Indoor visitation is limited to a designated visitation location. Visitors must only visit the resident they intend to visit at the designated visitation location.
 - Indoor visitation is limited to areas that allow for appropriate social distancing and must not exceed the capacity of the space.

- The visitation area must only be used by one group of visitors and the resident at a given time.
 - The visitation area must be reserved for the residents and their designated visitors.
 - The visitation area is ventilated and has specified entries, exits, and pathways that minimize exposure to other residents.
- Resident rooms must only be used for visitation as accommodation for residents who cannot access the area being used for indoor visitation.
 - This must occur only in a private room.
 - Visitors must not use resident facilities, including restrooms. They should instead be directed to restrooms that are not used by residents.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the room should occur after the visit is completed.
 - Unique Rehab will collect and document visitor's full names, phone number, full home address, email and room number of the person they are visiting and maintain records for at least days to assist with any contact tracing.

After indoor visitation

- Have the visitor clean their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon exiting Unique Rehab.
- The space designated for visitation must be cleaned and disinfected between visitors.
- Unique Rehab must clean and disinfect high touch surfaces (e.g., light switches, elevator buttons, door handles) in Unique Rehab at least twice a shift.
- No other residents should be allowed in the area until visitations are completed and the area is cleaned and disinfected.

Physical contact between residents and visitors can occur;

- If resident is fully vaccinated (2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2 dose series, or 2 weeks following receipt of a one dose single dose vaccine).
- The resident is wearing a well fitted mask.

- The resident properly performs hand hygiene immediately before and immediately after touching the visitor. The visitor must also perform hand hygiene immediately before and after touching the resident.
- Visitors must maintain 6 feet of physically distance from other residents and staff in Unique Rehab while visiting.

Visitation during outbreaks

- When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, Unique Rehab must begin outbreak testing, implement DC Health recommendations, and suspend all visitation (except that required compassionate care and under federal disability rights law), until at least one round of Unique Rehab-wide testing is completed.
- Visitation can resume if the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in Unique Rehab.
- Visitors are not required to be vaccinated but encouraged to be vaccinated. Visitors who cannot or don't comply with face covering, social distancing, hand hygiene and other Unique Rehab requirements will not be allowed to participate in outdoor or indoor visitation.

Notification of a COVID-19 exposure

- Unique Rehab must provide all visitors with contact information and additional instructions for notifying the facility should they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of their visit.
- Unique Rehab staff must notify visitors of outbreaks on the unit where the resident resides, should such an event occur within 14 days of a visit, and recommend the visitor(s) seek testing.

Safe Outdoor Visitation

- There will be two locations for outdoor visitation in the facility front courtyard where two tents are located under the large magnolia tree in the facility.
- All infection control protocols and screening requirement established for indoor visitation will also apply to outdoor visitation. Hand sanitizer will be located in the facility front courtyard.

References:

[cms.gov/files/document/quo-20-39-nh-revised.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/quo-20-39-nh-revised.pdf)

Screening tools Guidance: coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance

Quarantine after non-essential travel to high risk area: coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo

Coronavirus 2019 (covid-19): Indoor Visitation Requirement for Skilled Nursing Facilities & Assisted Living Residences.