



## Visitation Policy

Effective 3/26/2021

We, at Transitional Care of Las Vegas, understand our resident's loved ones have endured the COVID-19 pandemic by following the guidance set forth limiting visits to protect the patients. Therefore, we will allow visitations as outlined in CMS guidance and within this policy.

### **PERSON CENTERED CONSIDERATIONS**

Visitation should be person-centered, meaning taking into consideration the residents' physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, and supporting their quality of life. Some considerations for facilities include:

- Enabling visits to be conducted with an adequate degree of privacy.
- Working with residents, families, caregivers, resident representatives, and the Ombudsman program to identify the need for compassionate care visits.

### **CORE PRINCIPLES OF COVID-19 INFECTION PREVENTION**

Visitation can be conducted through different means based on Transitional Care of Las Vegas's structure and residents' needs, such as resident rooms, dedicated visitation spaces, outdoors, and for circumstances beyond compassionate care situations.

Regardless of how visits are conducted, Transitional Care of Las Vegas will have core principles and best practices that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission that should always be followed:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and recent exposure to a person with COVID-19 infection
- Persons with signs/symptoms or with close contact to a person with COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days should be denied entry regardless of the visitor's vaccination status.
- Performing hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
- Wearing a face covering or mask while in the facility
- Practicing physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces
- Cleaning and disinfecting of designated visitation areas after each visit
- Requiring appropriate staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Conducting effective cohorting of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated to COVID-19 care)
- Posting instructional signage throughout the facility and visitor education on COVID-19 signs/symptoms, proper facility procedures, and infection control precautions
- Testing residents and staff for COVID-19 infection as described in CMS testing guidance

There are some scenarios (e.g., a resident on transmission-based precautions, visitation of a resident with a roommate in the resident’s room) where additional infection control measures should be used to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Additional measures could include:

- Use of physical barriers (e.g., windows, clear Plexiglass dividers, curtains)

**Visitors who are unable to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave.**

**VISITATION SUMMARY**

<b>Type In-Person Visitation Permitted Based on Resident Transmission Based Precaution (TBP) Status for COVID-19 and facility Outbreak Status</b> <i>Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection prevention should be followed during <u>all</u> visits.</i>			
<b>VISITATION TYPE</b>	<b>RESIDENT <u>NOT</u> ON TBP FOR COVID-19 &amp; <u>NO</u> FACILITY <u>OUTBREAK</u></b>	<b>RESIDENT <u>NOT</u> ON TBP FOR COVID-19 &amp; <u>FACILITY IN</u> <u>OUTBREAK</u></b>	<b>RESIDENT <u>ON</u> TBP FOR COVID -19</b>
(1) Outdoor	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b> <i>Visits can occur virtually or through windows</i>
(2) Indoor	<b>YES</b> Unless: -The county’s positivity rate is >10%, -The resident is not fully vaccinated - <70% of all residents are fully vaccinated	<b>DEPENDS</b> See “Indoor Visitation During an Outbreak” of this policy	<b>NO</b> <i>Visits can occur virtually or through windows</i>
(3) Compassionate Care Visit	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
(4) Other Universally Required Visitation	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b> If visit can be achieved virtually or through windows, this is prefer

## OUTDOOR VISITATION

Transitional Care of Las Vegas prefers outdoor visitation even when the resident and/or visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Outdoor visitation should always be allowed for all residents regardless of vaccination status, except in the following circumstances when visitation should be limited due to high risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Outdoor visitation will not occur for:

- **Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection**, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met the criteria to discontinue COVID-19 isolation.
- **Residents in quarantine**, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

**Outdoor visitation is preferred even when the resident and/or visitor are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.** *Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased air flow and ability to more easily social distance more than 6 feet, therefore, Transitional Care of Las Vegas will prioritize outdoor visits whenever practical.*

Transitional Care of Las Vegas will create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visits (Courtyards, patios, etc.). Transitional Care of Las Vegas will follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention with the following caveat for physical contact between the resident and their visitor(s):

- Residents who are fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor(s) while wearing a face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after.
- Regardless, visitors should always physically distance from other residents and visitors while outside.

Note: **Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) should only receive visits that are virtual or through windows unless a compassionate care visit is identified.** This restriction on visitation should be lifted once transmission-based/isolation precautions are no longer required, and routine visits may be conducted.

## INDOOR VISITATION

Indoor visitation should always be allowed for residents regardless of vaccination status, **EXCEPT** in the following circumstances when visitation should be limited due to high risk of COVID-19 transmission. *(Note: this does not include compassionate care visits and visits under federal disability rights law which should always be permitted. Please see the **Compassionate Care and Other Universally Required Visitation** sections for more information)*

Indoor Visitation should be limited for:

- **Unvaccinated residents**, if the nursing home's COVID-19 county positivity rate is > 10%
- **Residents with Confirmed COVID-19 infection**, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met the criteria to discontinue COVID-19 isolation
- **Residents in quarantine**, regardless of vaccination status, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

- **If Transitional Care of Las Vegas is in outbreak mode** (Please see the **Indoor Visitation during an Outbreak** section for more information)

When conducting indoor visits, facilities should:

- Transitional Care of Las Vegas will follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, with the following caveat for physical contact between a resident and their visitor(s)
  - Residents who are fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor(s) while wearing a face mask and performing hand hygiene before and after
  - Follow physical distance protocols from other residents and staff in the facility
- Transitional Care of Las Vegas will have a schedule allowing 1 visitor per resident visit for 30 minutes at one time so the facility could maintain the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
- The visitors will be walked to the area of visitation and will not be allowed to walk around the different hallways of the facility
- If the resident has a roommate, Transitional Care of Las Vegas will designate an area outside of the residents' room if possible.
  - For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the resident prevents leaving the room, Transitional Care of Las Vegas will attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the Core Principles of COVID-19 as much as possible.
- **Note: Residents who are on transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) should only receive visits that are virtual or through windows unless a compassionate care visit is identified.** This restriction on visitation should be lifted once transmission-based/isolation precautions are no longer required, and routine visits may be conducted.

## INDOOR VISITATION DURING AN OUTBREAK

Per CMS, an outbreak exists when one new COVID-19 case occurs. This means a new COVID-19 case is identified among residents or staff.

When a new case of COVID-19 is identified among residents or staff, Transitional Care of Las Vegas will;

- Begin outbreak mode testing
- For residents in areas/units with greater than or equal to one (1) COVID-19 outbreak case(s) identified (regardless of vaccination)
  - **All visits are suspended until the facility meets criteria to discontinue outbreak testing** (when testing identified no new cases of COVID-19 on any unit of residents or staff for at least 14 days from the most recent positive result.)

Visitation can resume based on the results of the first round of facility-wide testing outbreak testing.

- If **no additional COVID-19 cases** are detected in other areas (e.g. Units) of Transitional Care of Las Vegas For residents in areas/units without COVID-19 cases (regardless of vaccination status)
  - Routine visits can resume.

Notification to families, residents and vendors will be communicated via email, in person or in writing

## COMPASSIONATE CARE VISITS

- Can be conducted by family members, as well as by any individual that can meet the resident's needs
- Should be conducted using the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention
- All Visitors conducting Compassion Care Visits must adhere to Transitional Care of Las Vegas's screening policies
- Other Universally and Essential workers (e.g. hospice workers, transportation workers, dialysis technicians, social workers, clergy, etc. will be permitted into Transitional Care of Las Vegas as long as they follow the facility's screening policy. ***(Emergency Medical Service workers are excluded in screening of for a 911/emergency call but must follow the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention while in the facility)***

## REFERENCES

- For the purposes of this policy, a person is considered fully vaccinated if they are  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2- dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC's Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. While vaccination and testing can prevent the spread of COVID19 within long-term care facilities, facilities should not require visitors of any type to be vaccinated or tested to gain entry.
- See CMS guidance: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

“Facilities shall not restrict visitation without a reasonable clinical or safety cause, consistent with 42 CFR § 483.10(f) (4) (v). A nursing home must facilitate in-person visitation consistent with the applicable CMS regulations, which can be done by applying the guidance stated above. Failure to facilitate visitation, without adequate reason related to clinical necessity or resident safety, would constitute a potential violation of 42 CFR § 483.10(f) (4), and the facility would be subject to citation and enforcement actions.”