



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR CONGREGATE SETTINGS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 03/24/2021

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, DDD updated its [COVID-19 Guidance for Congregate Settings and Direct Care Workers](#) guidance document available on the [Actions Related to COVID-19](#) web page. The new guidance aligns with the Arizona Department of Health Services' (ADHS) Guidance for Visitation at Congregate Settings for Vulnerable Adults and Children. As the COVID-19 situation in Arizona has changed, Governor Ducey's Task Force On Long-Term Care reconvened in March 2021 to determine any changes that should be made to the guidance. ADHS released revised guidelines on March 16, 2021. The latest guidance revision includes the following changes:

- Outdoor visitation is allowed at all times for all visitors.
- Indoor visitation is allowed without testing with few exceptions, during high community transmission and during an outbreak at the facility.
- Community spread is determined by the percent positivity of tests in each county.
- Clarification on compassionate care visits, visits required under federal disability rights law, and other legally permissible visits regardless of outbreak status or community transmission.
- Requirements for visitations during a facility outbreak.
- Screening of all visitors must continue

The complete, updated guidance is available on the [Arizona Department of Health Services' \(ADHS\) website](#). The Division will require the following DDD congregate setting types to adhere to the ADHS Guidance:

- Intermediate Care Facilities
- Nursing Supported Group Homes

DDD continues to recommend that DDD Group Home vendors adhere to the ADHS standards; however, it is not required. Should Group Home Vendors choose not to adopt these specific standards, they must have a visitation policy documented in their pandemic performance plan that clearly specifies criteria for visitation of family members and friends, and the appropriate safety precautions that will be put into place during visits. The vendor must maintain documentation that the visitation policy has been shared with all members and legally responsible persons, upon adoption and for any revisions to the policy.

DDD continues to encourage group home vendors and planning teams to follow the guidance in DDD's [Assessing Risk](#) document in instances where specific member circumstances may impact the vendor's ability to implement visitation policies. The planning team should work together to identify a solution and document

it in the member's plan if deviations need to be made from the criteria established in the vendor's visitation policy.

As of Wednesday, March 24, 2021, any Arizonan that is age 16 or older can register to receive the vaccine at one of the State run vaccine distribution locations:

- State Farm Stadium in Glendale
- Phoenix Municipal Stadium in Phoenix
- Chandler/Gilbert Community College in Chandler
- The University of Arizona in Tucson
- The Yuma Convention Center in Yuma.

Individuals can make an appointment online at podvaccine.azdhs.gov or by calling 1-844-542-8201. Eligible Medicaid members can get non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to their vaccine appointment even if it is at a drive through site [by contacting their health plan](#). Additionally, there are several counties that have adopted a similar vaccination strategy. Local county health department contact information can be found at <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-vaccine>.