



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR VISITATION AT CONGREGATE SETTINGS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 09/09/2020

DDD is issuing this vendor announcement to provide clarification to the [vendor announcement](#) on September 1, 2020. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) released guidance on August 28, 2020 for visitation at congregate settings for vulnerable adults and children. The guidance outlined two components that determine what level of visitations can occur. The first component is the quality of the facility's implementation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The second component is the level of spread occurring in the community. As with other business reopening plans, the level of visitation in congregate settings will be determined by the level of community spread in the county where the setting is located. The level of community spread is determined by county public health benchmarks that are available on the [ADHS website](#). Residential Settings must allow visitation at least to the level prescribed in the chart on page 6 of the [congregate settings recommendations found on the ADHS website](#) based on the county public health benchmarks.

The ADHS guidance specifically identifies the following setting types:

- Nursing Care Institutions
- Residential Care Institutions/Assisted Living Facilities
- Nursing Supported DD Group Homes
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID)

However, in order to ensure the health and safety of DDD members, the Division is requiring that all DDD Group Homes also comply with the ADHS guidance. This requirement does not apply to DDD Adult Developmental Homes or DDD Child Developmental Homes. DDD encourages 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 facility's ability to implement visitation that aligns with the ADHS guidance. The planning team should work together to identify a solution and document it in the plan if deviations need to be made from the ADHS guidance.

DDD is requiring that the identified setting types (ICFs, Nursing Supported Group Homes, and DDD Group Homes) complete an attestation confirming they have created and implemented policies that align with the ADHS guidance. The Division's Business Operations Unit sent the attestation to all vendors on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The attestation has been updated to reflect that vendors create their policies for visitation standards by Friday, September 11, 2020, and return the attestation to the Division by Monday, September 14, 2020. If a vendor has already submitted the attestation, they do not need to do so again.