



DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

REVISED GUIDANCE FOR VISITATION AT CONGREGATE SETTINGS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 09/28/2020

The Division published communications on both September 1, 2020, and September 9, 2020, with information about the Arizona Department of Health Services' (ADHS) Guidance for Visitation at Congregate Settings for Vulnerable Adults and Children. Governor Ducey's Task Force On Long-Term Care received feedback from the vendor and stakeholder communities following the release of the initial ADHS recommendations, and as a result, reconvened to review the concerns voiced by these groups. The Task Force released [revised guidelines on September 23, 2020](#). The revisions identify the types of visitation and the criteria by which they should be permitted including required testing. The visitor types are:

- Compassionate Care Visits
- Health Care Workers
- Regulatory and Investigative Personnel
- Designated Essential Visitors

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

Previously DDD indicated that DDD Group Home vendors would be required to adhere to the ADHS guidelines and attest they had implemented the requirements as outlined in the ADHS guidelines. DDD will not require DDD Group Home vendors to adhere to the ADHS standards, however it is strongly recommended. Should 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. All DDD Group Homes must allow for entry of essential personnel as described on [page 9 of the guidance](#). Vendors may screen these personnel and require masks, before allowing entry to the home.

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.