



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS WHO LEAVE CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES TO VISIT OTHERS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 11/13/2020

The Arizona Department of Health Services released revised [guidelines on November 6, 2020](#), related to visitation at congregate settings. This latest revision includes guidance for members who leave congregate care facilities to visit or stay with a family member. As with the previous guidance, ADHS has included recommendations based on the current transmission level within each Arizona county using [ADHS dashboard metrics](#). Arizona has seen a resurgence in positive COVID-19 cases over the last thirty days and all counties except Greenlee are in the Moderate Transmission category.

The Division continues to require the following DDD congregate setting types adhere to the ADHS guidance in its entirety:

- Intermediate Care Facilities
- Nursing Supported Group Homes

Previously the Division indicated that DDD Group Home vendors would not be required to adhere to the exact ADHS visitation guidelines as long as they have a visitation policy documented in their pandemic performance plan that clearly specifies criteria for visitation of family members and friends as well as the appropriate safety precautions that will be put into place during onsite 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 continue to allow for entry of essential personnel as described in the guidance. Vendors may screen these personnel and require masks, before allowing entry to the home.

As the holidays approach, the need for off-site visitation parameters has become apparent. Group Home vendors and planning teams should continue to use DDD's [Assessing Risk](#) document in specific instances where members request to leave the home. As the chances for exposure to COVID-19 exponentially increase when a member leaves the group home, DDD Group Home vendors should follow the ADHS guidance (found on page 13) for members who choose to leave the home to visit their family, with the following edit: if a private bathroom is not available, the vendor must ensure that staff implement enhanced cleaning and sanitation of the bathroom between uses. The planning team should work together to identify the associated risk with the member's off-site visit and the potential impact on the other members living in the home. Members choosing to visit family off-site will be required to quarantine per ADHS guidance upon their return. This should be documented and agreed upon by the planning team before the member leaves the home.