



Long Term Care Call 3.3.21

This call is not intended for the press or for reporting purposes.

Visitation - *guidance based on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) revised guidance September 17, 2020 ([QSO-20-39-NH](#))*

- Facilities **must** have a plan with policies and procedures in place to ensure person-centered visitation is reasonably allowed.
- Visitation may occur safely and based on the community (county) test positivity rate, the absence of COVID-19 within the facility, and the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
- DOH Staff will conduct a visitation phone survey.
- Lack of visitation in a facility without adequate reasoning may indicate a Resident Rights concern.
- **State of South Dakota Back to Normal Long-Term Care Reopening Plan - Revised September 25, 2020**
- The guidance represents reasonable ways a NH and ALC can facilitate in-person visitation.

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Percent Positive and Tests in prior 14 days:

Aurora County, SD	46003 SD	8	2,751 Non-core	23	836	4.3%	Green
Beadle County, SD	46005 SD	8	18,453 Metropolitan	48	260	12.5%	Yellow
Bennett County, SD	46007 SD	8	3,365 Non-core	54	1,605	0.0%	Green
Bon Homme County, SD	46009 SD	8	6,901 Non-core	53	768	3.8%	Green
Brookings County, SD	46011 SD	8	35,077 Metropolitan	395	1,126	2.3%	Green
Brown County, SD	46013 SD	8	38,839 Metropolitan	406	1,045	6.2%	Yellow
Brule County, SD	46015 SD	8	5,297 Non-core	33	623	0.0%	Green
Buffalo County, SD	46017 SD	8	1,962 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Butte County, SD	46019 SD	8	10,429 Non-core	159	1,525	5.7%	Yellow
Campbell County, SD	46021 SD	8	1,376 Non-core	29	2,108	0.0%	Green
Charles Mix County, SD	46023 SD	8	9,292 Non-core	107	1,152	11.2%	Yellow
Clark County, SD	46025 SD	8	3,736 Non-core	31	830	0.0%	Green
Clay County, SD	46027 SD	8	14,070 Metropolitan	50	355	2.0%	Green
Codington County, SD	46029 SD	8	28,009 Metropolitan	86	307	2.3%	Green
Corson County, SD	46031 SD	8	4,086 Non-core	27	661	14.8%	Yellow
Custer County, SD	46033 SD	8	8,972 Small metro	94	1,048	10.6%	Yellow
Davison County, SD	46035 SD	8	19,775 Metropolitan	228	1,153	4.4%	Green
Day County, SD	46037 SD	8	5,424 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Deuel County, SD	46039 SD	8	4,351 Non-core	20	460	0.0%	Green
Dewey County, SD	46041 SD	8	5,892 Non-core	28	475	21.4%	Yellow
Douglas County, SD	46043 SD	8	2,921 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Edmunds County, SD	46045 SD	8	3,829 Metropolitan	32	836	9.4%	Yellow
Fall River County, SD	46047 SD	8	6,713 Non-core	121	1,802	6.6%	Yellow
Faulk County, SD	46049 SD	8	2,299 Non-core	25	1,087	4.0%	Green
Grant County, SD	46051 SD	8	7,052 Non-core	82	1,163	7.3%	Yellow
Gregory County, SD	46053 SD	8	4,185 Non-core	58	1,386	10.3%	Yellow
Haakon County, SD	46055 SD	8	1,899 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Hamlin County, SD	46057 SD	8	6,164 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Hand County, SD	46059 SD	8	3,191 Non-core	48	1,504	6.2%	Yellow
Hanson County, SD	46061 SD	8	3,453 Metropolitan	37	1,072	16.2%	Yellow
Harding County, SD	46063 SD	8	1,298 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Hughes County, SD	46065 SD	8	17,526 Metropolitan	266	1,518	2.3%	Green
Hutchinson County, SD	46067 SD	8	7,291 Non-core	108	1,481	16.7%	Yellow
Hyde County, SD	46069 SD	8	1,301 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Jackson County, SD	46071 SD	8	3,344 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Jerauld County, SD	46073 SD	8	2,013 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Jones County, SD	46075 SD	8	903 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Kingsbury County, SD	46077 SD	8	4,939 Non-core	56	1,134	3.6%	Green
Lake County, SD	46079 SD	8	12,797 Non-core	67	524	0.0%	Green
Lawrence County, SD	46081 SD	8	25,844 Metropolitan	543	2,101	4.8%	Green
Lincoln County, SD	46083 SD	8	61,128 Small metro	814	1,332	7.4%	Yellow
Lyman County, SD	46085 SD	8	3,781 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Marshall County, SD	46091 SD	8	4,935 Non-core	46	932	13.0%	Yellow
McCook County, SD	46087 SD	8	5,586 Small metro	52	931	7.7%	Yellow
McPherson County, SD	46089 SD	8	2,379 Non-core	148	6,221	0.0%	Green
Meade County, SD	46093 SD	8	28,332 Small metro	351	1,239	11.7%	Yellow
Mellette County, SD	46095 SD	8	2,061 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Miner County, SD	46097 SD	8	2,216 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Minnehaha County, SD	46099 SD	8	193,134 Small metro	3,843	1,990	4.6%	Green
Moody County, SD	46101 SD	8	6,576 Non-core	53	806	5.7%	Yellow
Oglala Lakota County, SD	46102 SD	8	14,177 Non-core	36	254	5.6%	Yellow
Pennington County, SD	46103 SD	8	113,775 Small metro	1,466	1,289	8.1%	Yellow
Perkins County, SD	46105 SD	8	2,865 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Potter County, SD	46107 SD	8	2,153 Non-core	61	2,833	11.5%	Red
Roberts County, SD	46109 SD	8	10,394 Non-core	49	471	6.1%	Yellow
Sanborn County, SD	46111 SD	8	2,344 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green
Spink County, SD	46115 SD	8	6,376 Non-core	112	1,757	7.1%	Yellow
Stanley County, SD	46117 SD	8	3,098 Metropolitan	41	1,323	2.4%	Green
Sully County, SD	46119 SD	8	1,391 Metropolitan	30	2,157	3.3%	Green
Todd County, SD	46121 SD	8	10,177 Non-core	21	206	0.0%	Green
Tripp County, SD	46123 SD	8	5,441 Non-core	32	588	9.4%	Yellow
Turner County, SD	46125 SD	8	8,384 Small metro	38	453	5.3%	Yellow
Union County, SD	46127 SD	8	15,932 Small metro	286	1,795	6.3%	Yellow
Walworth County, SD	46129 SD	8	5,435 Non-core	90	1,656	13.3%	Yellow
Yankton County, SD	46135 SD	8	22,814 Metropolitan	307	1,346	2.3%	Green
Ziebach County, SD	46137 SD	8	2,756 Non-core	<20 tests	<20 tests	<20 tests	Green

[Data.CMS.gov](https://data.cms.gov)

Data from February 11-February 24

Or

<https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Dashboard.aspx>

County Test Positivity Rate			
Green	Monthly	38	58%
Yellow	Weekly	27	41%
Red	2 X Weekly	1	2%
Counties		66	
Nursing Home Testing/Visitation			
Green	Monthly	52	50%
Yellow	Weekly	51	49%
Red	2 X Weekly	1	1%
Nursing Homes		104	



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Community (County) Test Positivity Rate

- **Low (<5%)** = **Visitation should occur** according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (**beyond** compassionate care visits)
- **Medium (5% – 10%)** = **Visitation should occur** according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (**beyond** compassionate care visits)
- **High (>10%)** = Visitation should only occur for **compassionate care situations** according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies

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Compassionate Care – *for counties over 10% test positivity rate*

Source: CMS Frequently Asked Questions – October 6, 2020

While end-of-life situations have been used as examples of compassionate care situations, the term “compassionate care situations” **does not exclusively refer to end-of-life situations**. Examples of other types of compassionate care situations include, **but are not limited to**:

- A resident, who was living with their family before recently being admitted to a nursing home, is struggling with the change in environment and lack of physical family support.
- A resident who is grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.
- A resident who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver(s), is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
- A resident, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently (when the resident had rarely cried in the past).

Allowing a visit in these situations would be consistent with the intent of, “compassionate care situations.” Also, in addition to family members, compassionate care visits can be conducted by any individual that can meet the resident’s needs, such as clergy or lay persons offering religious and spiritual support.

Furthermore, the above list is not an exhaustive list as there may be other compassionate care situations not included.

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The Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

The Core Principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention

- **Screening** of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
- **Hand hygiene** (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
- **Face covering or mask** (covering mouth and nose)
- **Social distancing** at least six feet between persons
- **Instructional signage** throughout the facility and proper **visitor education** on COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices (e.g., use of face covering or mask, specified entries, exits and routes to designated areas, hand hygiene)
- **Cleaning and disinfecting** high frequency touched surfaces in the facility often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
- Appropriate use of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- **Effective cohorting** of residents (e.g., separate areas dedicated COVID-19 care)
- **Resident and staff testing** are accessible

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PPE and BinaxNOW are available to facilitate visitation in LTC

To facilitate visitation please contact:

- ✓ PPE – email a request form to COVIDResourceRequests@state.sd.us OR call **605.773.3048** and requesting entities must provide information regarding their current facility status.
- ✓ BinaxNOW Testing Kits - Please send an email to Cindy Koopman-Viergets at Cindy.KoopmanViergets@state.sd.us
- ✓ Please look at your **BinaxNOW expiration dates**.
- ✓ Use kits with the earliest expiration date first.

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Re-admission/ New Admission Guidance - CDC

Create a Plan for Managing New Admissions and Readmissions Whose COVID-19 Status is Unknown.

- Depending on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, this might include placing the resident in a single-person room or in a separate observation area so the resident can be monitored for evidence of COVID-19.
- HCP should wear an N95 or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection (i.e., goggles or a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face), gloves, and gown when caring for these residents.
- Residents can be transferred out of the observation area to the main facility if they remain afebrile and without symptoms for 14 days after their admission.
- Testing at the end of this period can be considered to increase certainty that the resident is not infected.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

Re-admission/ New Admission Guidance - CMS

CMS – qso-20-38-nh – COVID-19 Focused Survey

- Does the facility have a plan (including appropriate placement and PPE use) to manage residents that are new/readmissions under observation, those exposed to COVID-19, and those suspected of COVID-19?
- Are these actions based on national (e.g., CDC), state, or local public health authority recommendations?

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>



Risk for Residents after Community/Medical Visits

Assess risk of visit, and place patient in most appropriate location upon return.

Risk Assessment Examples

- ❑ https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/riskassessment_communityvisit.pdf
- ❑ http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_LTC_FacilityRiskAssessment.pdf
- ❑ Georgia Risk Assessment – Page 3
https://assets.website-files.com/5ead5c72cd1146a4d27183f3/5fbbc832ed56ccca38a9f21d_LTCF%20Holiday%20Guidance-Update%2011202020.pdf
- ❑ https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/INFCONT_exp_risk_assess_template_patients_postacute.pdf

PPE

Green zone: Universal masking (this is the well-fitting hospital grade facemask) should be implemented if there is community spread of COVID.

- The addition of eye protection for staff working in all patient care zones will be based on *community transmission rates*.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html> (halfway down the page for PPE use strategies)

Using Eye Protection

Use of eye protection is recommended in areas with **moderate to substantial community transmission**. For areas with minimal to no community transmission, eye protection is considered optional, unless otherwise indicated as part of standard precautions.

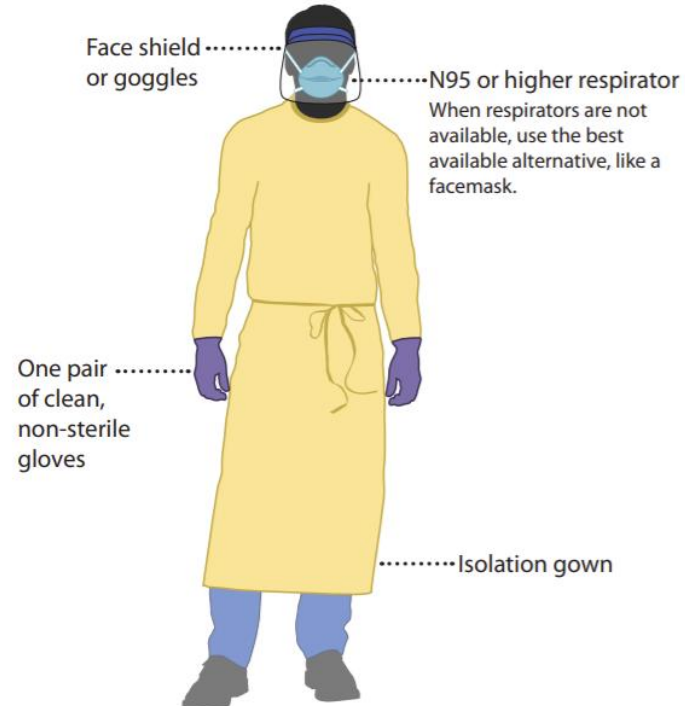
See the Guidance

YELLOW or **RED** Zone (Quarantine or COVID unit)

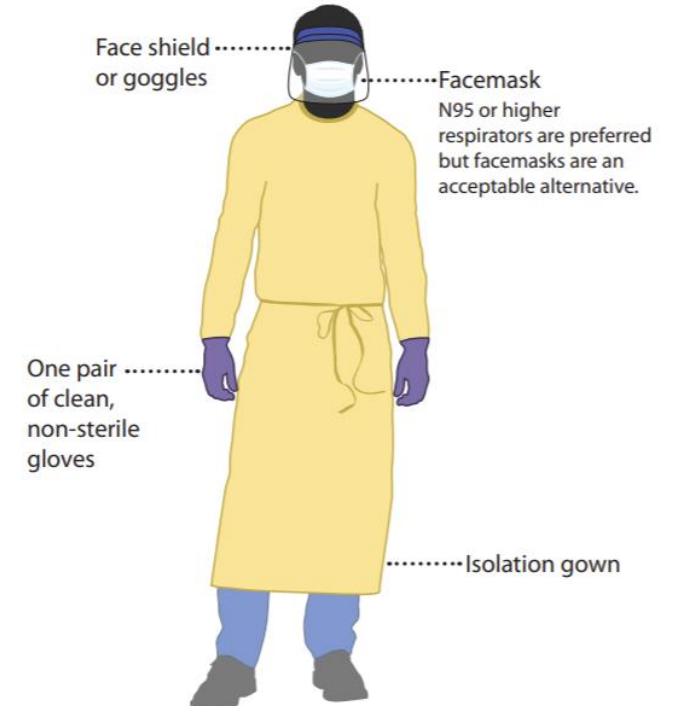
- ❖ **Yellow zone:** You want to use all PPE with this group *as if they have COVID until they prove otherwise* to reduce the risk of spread. **This PPE includes:** gown, gloves, facemask OR respirator (N-95 if available) and eye protections.
- ❖ **Red Zone:** Is the same as the yellow zone. As always, N-95 or higher respirator is preferred in the COVID unit.

COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Personnel

Preferred PPE – Use N95 or Higher Respirator



Acceptable Alternative PPE – Use Facemask



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)