



Guidelines: Resumption of In-Person Visits Framework	
Site: All Applicable	Date Issued: May 14, 2021
Issued By: Commissioner Helen E. Hanks	

The purpose of this framework is to provide NHDOC facility guidelines for the resumption of in-person visitation for residents, their friends and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department recognizes visits are important for the resident’s emotional well-being. Relaxing current restrictions on indoor visitation might increase the risk for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in correctional facilities, however, vaccination have been offered to residents, will continue to be offered and staff can mitigate some of these risks, and expanding visitation has substantial benefits to residents. Guidance in this document is framed, in part, from [CDC Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (published April 27th 2021).

In-Person Visitation

In-person visitation may be permitted for all incarcerated residents, except when:

- Residents currently on medical isolation or quarantine status.
- Residents in facilities currently in outbreak status.
- Residents have the privilege of visits per departmental policy.

Visitation Protocol

Resident Protocol

1. Before and During Visitation

Visitation Process Requirements:

- All visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors for exposure prior to visitation using the visitor screening tool (Attachment A). This tool will include contact information, and will serve as a visitor log with contact information for all visitors to enable accurate public health contact tracing should there be a need.
- Children under the age of two (2), the mask is not required.
- All residents participating in visits will be screened by the resident visit screening tool (Attachment B).
- If residents or visitors screen positive for any questions about risk factors or signs/symptoms of COVID-19, the visit will be denied.
- All individuals must wear a surgical [facemask that covers their nose and mouth](#) at all times.
- All residents will be provided with a clean surgical mask prior to entering the visit area, and will discard the mask appropriately before returning to the housing unit.
- An adequate supply of surgical masks shall be on hand to provide residents, staff, and visitors with a surgical facemask during the visit.



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- All individuals must perform hand hygiene upon entry- either by washing hands thoroughly or using provided hand sanitizer.
- You will be allowed to hug for a short duration of 3 seconds at the beginning and end of the visit per Cor 305.02 (w) (1).
- Visits will be required to remain in your designated chair during the course of the visit at the visiting table. For this purpose, groups who arrive together are allowed to remain closer than 6 ft. from each other.
- If a visitor or resident fails to comply with masking or other visitation rules, the visit will be denied or terminated.
- Visits shall be scheduled in advance and limited in length in order to provide appropriate adequate access to all eligible residents for visits.
- Visit room capacity shall be limited in order to maintain 6 feet of separation between (groups of visitors), residents, and staff.
- Adequate staff shall be present to allow for screening, safe transit of residents to the designated visitation location, supervision, and to perform cleaning and disinfection of all touched surface before and after each visitation.

After the Visit

Instruct visitors to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 after their visit. Any individual who enters the facility and develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (as outlined above) within 2 days after visiting must immediately notify the facility. The visitor should inform the facility of the date of their visit, the individuals (both residents and staff) they were in contact with, and the locations within the facility they visited. Facilities should immediately screen the individuals who had contact with the visitor for the level of exposure and follow up HR/Medical Staff.

Frequently Asked Questions on Visitation

Can visitors from out of state attend?

Yes.

Is a COVID-19 test required to visit?

No.

Is a vaccine required for visitors?

No. Visitors should not be turned away if they have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Even if visitors are vaccinated, they must maintain the same safety precautions as everyone else when inside the facility.



NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – COVID-19 ENTRY SCREENING REQUIRED FOR ALL VISITORS ENTERING THE FACILITY

Attachment A

To: All VISITORS
From: Helen E. Hanks, Commissioner
Effective Date: May 5, 2021
Re: Access to NHDOC Visit Rooms for all Visitors

1. Do you have a Fever? :

YES NO

If the person answers “yes” to question 1, entry will be denied.

Temperature: _____

 Person taking temperature

 Signature

 Date

If the temperature is 100.0°F or greater, entry will be denied.

2. Have any of the following, within the past 14 days, that are of an unknown origin (examples of known origin might include: allergies, heavy work out):

	YES	NO		YES	NO		YES	NO
Chills			Cough			Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing		
Fatigue			Muscle or body aches			Headache		
New loss of taste or smell			Sore throat			Congestion or runny nose		
Nausea or vomiting			Diarrhea			Per CDC Update Feb. 22, 2021		

If the person answers “yes” to any symptom in question 2, entry will be denied.

3. In the past 2 weeks:

- a. Have you been asked to self-quarantine by Public Health or a healthcare provider? YES NO
- b. Have you traveled in the prior 10 days internationally (outside of the U.S., except for essential travel to/from Canada*) or on a cruise ship? YES NO

*Essential travel to/from Canada includes for work, school, personal safety, medical care, care of others, or parental shared custody. Essential travel also includes travel for students and their parents or guardians who are visiting institutions of higher learning or preparatory high schools as potential future students, including allowing the students to remain at the schools for overnight stays.

If the person answers “yes” to a or b in question 3, entry will be denied.

4. In the last 14 days, have you had close contact* with any person that has tested positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to be positive? YES NO

*Close contact” is defined as

- being within six feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more;
- providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19;
- having direct physical contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 such as hugging or kissing;
- sharing eating or drinking utensils such as cups, plates, or forks; or
- getting respiratory droplets on you by someone sneezing or coughing

If the person answers “yes” to question 4, entry will be denied.

5. While the NHDOC is taking reasonable steps to follow local, state, and federal guidance intended to promote public health and limit the spread of infection from COVID-19, the NHDOC cannot possibly eliminate all risk of exposure associated with participation in an in-person visit. Participation in an in-person visit may include possible exposure to COVID-19. By signing below, I acknowledge that I knowingly and freely assume such risks and I assume full responsibility for my participation. I willingly agree to comply with all of the NHDOC's rules, requirements and guidance regarding COVID-19 and visitation. I attest that the information I provided in this screening tool is true, to the best of my knowledge.

Name

Telephone #

Signature

Date

