

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**Helen E. Hanks  
Commissioner**

P.O. BOX 1806  
CONCORD, NH 03302-1806  
603-271-5603 FAX: 888-908-6609  
TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964  
[www.nh.gov/nhdoc](http://www.nh.gov/nhdoc)

To: All Staff  
Subject: Amendment to 2020 - COVID-19 Operational  
Guidelines – Dated November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Pages 7-8 & Page 13

From: Commissioner Helen Hanks  
Date: March 26, 2021 (Replaces Amendment Dated February 9, 2021)

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**Language amendments to current guidance are as outlined below effective March 19<sup>th</sup> 2021:**

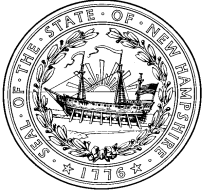
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**Residents transferring between NHDOC facilities:**

A 14-day quarantine prior to transfer shall be initiated for all residents transferring between NHDOC facilities. If the sending facility does not have capacity for the 14-day quarantine but the receiving facility does, the transfer may occur with an intake 14-day quarantine at the receiving facility if bed space and a cohort can be safely established and managed. Medical staff may offer PCR testing throughout the quarantine period to inform for surveillance of COVID-19 and opportunities to reduce quarantine periods after consultation with healthcare staff and leadership on site. All residents shall be screened by medical personnel using the COVID-19 Screening in TechCare which includes a temperature check prior to boarding the transport vehicle. Quarantines will be managed under the standards posted under the departmental PPD 1073.00 2020 COVID-19 Operational Guidelines. If the resident does not clear the COVID-19 screening, healthcare staff are to refer to a provider for further triage and place them in medical isolation while awaiting the provider's review of the resident. In addition, the resident is to immediately be instructed to put on a surgical mask, unless it is contraindicated pursuant to CDC guidance, while awaiting further triage by a provider.

Fully vaccinated residents do not require a 14-day quarantine if the following conditions are met:

1. 14 days have passed since the final dose of COVID-19 vaccine was administered.
2. The resident has had no exposure to known or suspected cases of COVID 19 in the last 14 days.
3. Nursing staff has completed a chart review and COVID-19 screening assessment is done using the COVID screening form.
4. Approval from the Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing or designee is obtained prior to transfer.



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Residents who have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days do not require a 14-day quarantine if the following conditions are met:

1. The resident had a confirmed case of COVID 19 within the last 90 days, has since recovered and been cleared by medical staff. For consideration of recovered cases, 90 days is calculated from the date that the initial positive test was administered.
2. The resident has had no exposure to known or suspected cases of COVID 19 in the last 14 days.
3. Nursing staff has completed a chart review and COVID 19 screening assessment is done using the COVID screening form.
4. Approval from the Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing, or designee is obtained prior to transfer.

Residents who have scheduled medical, behavior health, or other appointments in any NHDOC facility are not considered transfers, and do not require a 14-day quarantine, however appropriate PPE and social distancing is required. Appointments are not considered admissions to the infirmary beds. Appointments are time limited within the same day of the appointment.

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**Release of residents into the community:**

A 14-day quarantine prior to release shall be initiated when quarantine housing space is available and timing is not prohibitive. Residents being released will be provided education on COVID-19. If the person does not have a fabric face covering upon release, they will be provided a surgical mask.

Healthcare staff in consultation with case management will consider testing residents for SARS-CoV-2 before release if they will be released to a congregate setting or to a household with persons at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

For any resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who is releasing from a DOC facility, the Infection Prevention Nurse or designee in conjunction with the facility case management resources will contact their local health jurisdiction/public health for appropriate placement guidance prior to the resident's release.

**References:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>