Policy
Residents of provider-managed residential settings are able to engage in indoor, outdoor and off-site visits as described in Guidance for Residential Providers on Visits with Family and Friends. Residential providers are required to allow visitation of any type and cannot independently stop visitation unless directed by a Federal, Local, or State Health Authority.

Regardless of vaccination status, all staff, contracted professionals, visitors, and day program participants must be screened, including temperature checks, before entering a congregate day program. This includes scheduled staff coming onto each shift. A record of all screenings shall be maintained. Individuals who reside in congregate residential settings can be screened after entering their home. In all instances, screening is to occur in an accessible designated area that accommodates social distancing and infection control standards. Please see page 5 for screening policy for residents entering/returning to the residence.

For day program facilities, indoor screening areas must be separated from the day program by walls or physical barriers. Outdoor screening areas must be sufficiently sheltered to allow utilization during inclement weather. In-vehicle screening is permissible for program participants.

First responders who are entering the facility to address an emergency do not need to be screened ahead of entering the residence or day program.

Individuals that answer “NO” to all screening questions AND have a temperature below 100.4 degrees will be able to enter the residence or program and/or participate in a visit.

Procedure for Entering a Residence or Day Program – Staff
If, after undergoing screening, staff are permitted to enter the residence or day program, the residential or day program staff shall:

• Perform hand hygiene upon entering the residence or day program.
• Follow standard precautions and provider guidance related to preventing COVID-19 spread, including wearing well-fitting masks and other relevant PPE.

Due to the evolving nature of isolation and quarantine protocols around COVID-19, providers are directed to follow New Jersey Department of Health Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel and, as appropriate, NJDOH Healthcare Personnel Exposure to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case CONVENTIONAL Risk Algorithm in relation to the return of staff to work.

Procedure for Entering a Day Program – Participants
Regardless of vaccination status, program participants shall be screened for COVID-19 before boarding an agency vehicle that will transport them to the day program. This includes taking and recording their temperature. If they are showing symptoms and/or fever they shall not be permitted on the transport vehicle. Inform their caretaker regarding symptoms and direct them to see a healthcare professional. Program participants transported by an
agency vehicle and screened before boarding do not need to be screened again prior to entry to the day program.

Program participants transported by an entity other than the day program provider shall be screened prior to entry to the day program.

Regardless of their vaccination status, if a participant tests positive, or is symptomatic for COVID-19 and either was not tested or is awaiting test results, they cannot return to program until:

- For participants who are **unable** to consistently wear a well-fitting mask while at program:
  - 10-days have passed (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons);
- For participants who are **able** to consistently wear a well-fitting mask while at program:
  - 5-days have passed (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons) followed by an additional 5-days of consistently wearing a well-fitting mask while at day program;
- 24-hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, as applicable; and
- Symptoms have improved, as applicable. This can be as long as 20 days for participants with severe or critical illness.

Should a symptomatic participant’s test result come back negative they should return to program when they pass screening. The day program may require a doctor’s note before re-admission.

Asymptomatic participants who are up-to-date\(^1\) with recommended vaccine doses (including booster dose), or have recovered from confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days, and who have had a close contact\(^2\) with someone positive for COVID-19 should not be restricted from work/program following their exposure. However, they must wear a well-fitting mask (as tolerated/medically advisable) around others for 10 days from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19. If they are unable to do this they are to not attend day program for at least 10-days. Day 0 starts the day they had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, and day 1 is the first full day following the last close contact. They should get tested at least 5 days after they last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, and follow isolation recommendations if they test positive.

If an asymptomatic participant has had a close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 and is not up-to-date with recommended vaccine doses (including a booster dose) they are not to return to the program for at least 10-days. Day 0 starts the day they had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, and day 1 is the first full day following the last close contact. They should wear a **well-fitting mask** (as tolerated/medically advisable) for 10-days (i.e., days 0 through 10) after the last close contact\(^3\).

**Procedure for Entering a Residence/Returning from an Off-Site Visit with Family/Friends – Residents**

Regardless of vaccination status, residential providers are required to screen all residents and monitor them for sudden or emerging symptoms/signs of illness. This includes taking and recording their temperature. If they are showing symptoms and/or fever, they should be isolated away from other residents and a healthcare professional immediately consulted to determine if further isolation and/or COVID-19 testing is needed. If symptoms appear to be immediately life-threatening, 911 shall be called.

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\(^1\) Up–to-date with recommended vaccines means having received all primary doses and booster shots recommended for the individual. See [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html) for more information.

\(^2\) Close contact is defined as ≥ 15 cumulative minutes within 24-hours of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19.

\(^3\) Adapted from [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation-background.html#text=No.%20This%20guidance,setting-specific%20guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine-isolation-background.html#text=No.%20This%20guidance,setting-specific%20guidance)
Regardless of vaccination status, upon a resident’s return from an off-site visit they will be screened for signs and symptoms of SARS-CoV-2, including determination if they experienced a close contact with someone positive for COVID-19. Regardless of vaccination status, symptomatic residents and those who report a close contact shall be tested for COVID-19 and the advice of a medical professional be followed based on test results, including direction on isolation/quarantine.

Regardless of their vaccination status, if a resident tests positive, or is symptomatic for COVID-19 and either was not tested or is awaiting test results, they must isolate as follows (Should the symptomatic resident’s test result come back negative they can end isolation) until:

- For residents who are **unable** to consistently wear a well-fitting mask:
  - 10-days have passed (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons);
- For residents who are **able** to consistently wear a well-fitting mask:
  - 5-days have passed (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons) followed by an additional 5-days of consistently wearing a well-fitting mask;
  - 24-hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, as applicable; and
  - Symptoms have improved, as applicable. This can be as long as 20 days for participants with severe or critical illness.

Asymptomatic residents who are up-to-date with recommended vaccine doses (including booster dose), or have recovered from confirmed COVID-19 in the past 90 days, and who have had a close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 are not required to quarantine following this exposure. However, they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days (as tolerated/medically advisable) from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19. Day 0 starts the day they had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, and day 1 is the first full day following the last close contact. They should get tested at least 5 days after they last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, and follow isolation recommendations if they test positive.

If an asymptomatic resident has had a close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 and is not up-to-date with recommended vaccine doses, including a booster dose, they should quarantine for at least 10 days. Day 0 starts the day they had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, and day 1 is the first full day following the last close contact. They should wear a well-fitting mask (as tolerated/medically advisable) for 10 days (i.e., days 0 through 10) after the last close contact.

**Procedure for Entering a Residence – Visitors**

Regardless of vaccination status all visitors must be screened, including temperature check, before entering a provider-managed residence. Indoor visitation in congregate residential settings must be permitted for those visitors who pass screening. Visitors must wear a well-fitted mask and physically distance from other staff/residents/visitors with whom they are not visiting. Support Coordinators shall follow the parameters in **Support Coordinator Field Visits**.

Providers are permitted to inquire about vaccination status of participants, visitors and staff so long as they follow all privacy requirements and are in compliance with HIPAA protections, (e.g., do not ask the status in front of others) and any other applicable federal or state law. Visitors are not required to provide this information. If vaccination status is unknown it is to be assumed the person is not vaccinated.
Those who clear screening and enter a home are advised to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for at least 14-days after their visit. If symptoms occur, they should self-isolate at home, contact their healthcare provider, and immediately notify the home of the date they visited, the individuals with whom they were in contact, and the locations within the home they visited. The home will immediately screen the individuals of a reported contact, and implement necessary actions based on findings.

For indoor and outdoor visits, residents who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster) and their visitors who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster) are not required to wear a mask or socially distance and the resident can choose to have close contact (including touch) when alone during their visit.

If the visitors or residents being visited are not up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster) then the visitors are to wear a well-fitting mask. The resident is to wear a well-fitting mask as tolerated/medically advisable. The safest approach is for everyone to maintain physical distancing and to relevant personal protective equipment (e.g., well-fitting mask, gloves, etc.). If the resident is up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster), they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor(s) who are not up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster) while both continue to wear well-fitting mask.

Visitation is not recommended if the individual being visited and/or another resident of the home is/are:

1. Positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days;
2. Symptomatic of COVID-19 infection within the last 10 days;
3. Not up-to-date with recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and have been identified as a close contact to a known COVID-19 case within the last 10 days.

In the above circumstances, if the resident, resident’s guardian (as applicable) and visitor(s) are aware of the risks associated with visitation (on-site or otherwise) as described at [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/hcf-visitors.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/hcf-visitors.html) visitation is still permissible. In these cases, visits should occur in the resident’s room and the resident should wear a well-fitting mask (if tolerated/medically advisable). Providers shall advise visitors whether any staff/residents have tested positive, are symptomatic or are not up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster) and been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days to help inform their decision to visit. Please note that providers must maintain compliance with HIPAA and other applicable federal and state laws when engaging in the sharing of this information.

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Screening Questions

1. Signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection (Regardless of vaccination status)
   a. Have you had a temperature over 100.4° within the past 48 hours?
      • Current temperature must be verified and recorded as directed.
      • Thermometer must be completely sanitized between uses.
   b. Have you had any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours: fever or 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 (see CDC Symptoms of Coronavirus).

2. Close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (Not applicable to staff who are up-to-date\(^5\) with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster), or have recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days unless immunocompromised)
   a. Have you had close contact with someone* who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

   Please note that if the close contact was solely due to continuing care for an infected individual in the residence or other healthcare setting and appropriate personal protective equipment was worn during that encounter answering Yes to this question does not preclude the staff person from working or someone participating in a visit. In this instance, the staff person can continue to work, unless they display symptoms, and should follow universal precautions including wearing personal protective equipment.

   Close contact for healthcare exposures is defined as follows: Someone who was: (a) within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the individual is isolated, and/or (b) had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.

   Examples:
   • Caring for or visiting the person; Having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the individual (for example, being coughed on or handling a dirty tissue).

   CDC Contact/Exposure Resources:
   • CDC Guidance for Potential COVID-19 Exposure Associated with International or Domestic Travel
   • CDC Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19
   • Guidance for COVID-19 Diagnosed and/or Exposed Healthcare Personnel
   • NJDOH Healthcare Personnel Exposure to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case CONVENTIONAL Risk Algorithm

3. Travel outside of New Jersey (https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey) — NOT APPLICABLE TO PERSONS who are up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations (including booster)
   a. Are you not up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination (including booster) and have traveled within the last 14 days to a U.S. state other than Delaware, New York or Pennsylvania for more than 24 hours and not followed CDC guidance upon return – including self-quarantining for at least 7 days after travel AND having had a negative test for COVID-19 3-5 days upon return to NJ, OR having self-quarantined for 10 days upon return and being asymptomatic of COVID-19?

\(^5\) Up-to-date with recommended vaccines means having received all primary doses and booster shots recommended for the individual. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html for more information.