

Advocacy and Resource Center  
COVID 19 Protocols  
2020

Protocol: Visitation in IRA Locations

Effective: 6/19/2020

Revised: 8/12/2020, 10/12/2020

Rationale: For the purposes of this protocol, visitation is defined as on-site visits only in a designated visitation area, it does not include, car rides in non-agency vehicles, or transporting individuals to medical appointments. As of this time these situations are still not permitted. The following instructions will be followed for all visitation that will occur in Residential IRA locations. This protocol will continue to be updated as future directives are provided from OPWDD related to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

The following situations would **prohibit** visitation in any IRA location.

- 1.) Any individual residing in the IRA has had a COVID-19 screening for a scheduled hospital procedure and ordered to self-isolate until the date/time of the procedure. For example, Individual is due for a medical procedure on Thursday, said individual has a COVID-19 test completed on Monday and is ordered to isolate until the date of the scheduled procedure. No visitation to the IRA would be allowed from the time of the COVID testing on Monday until the individual leaves for the procedure on Thursday.
- 2.) If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the IRA and Isolation precautions are in place for any individual in the residence.
- 3.) The Agency reserves the right to suspend visitation at any location if there exists a medical condition of one of the occupants where exposure to possible infective agents puts the individual at an increased health risk.

All visitation will be scheduled in advance for a period of time not to exceed 60 minutes of face to face visit time and limited to two visitors per session. Visitation should not be scheduled during anticipated times of high activity such as during a meal time. At the time visitation is scheduled, visitor(s) will be asked screening questions from the Staff Pre-shift Screening Protocol. Scheduling will be contingent upon passing the screening questions. Visitor(s) will be informed that they must bring a face mask to wear during the visit. Visitor(s) will also be informed of the requirements of this protocol at the time visitation is scheduled. The following will apply to all visits.

- 1.) Visitors will be screened upon arrival following the staff screening protocol, this will include a temperature and all screening questions. Temperature will be recorded on the Visitor Screening Record. Visitor will be required to sign the attestation statement on the Screening Record.
- 2.) Visitors will be provided with hand sanitizer during the screening and be asked to disinfect hands before visit begins.
- 3.) Visitation will be arranged to occur outdoors whenever possible, weather permitting. For any visits that will happen inside of the IRA please refer to the IRA Interior Visit Locations list in the Residential folder of the Covid-19 Protocols folder on the desktop.

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Location designated for each site on this list will be the only area where visits can occur inside the Residence. An alternate visit location will be designated for any Residence where an interior location can not be safely designated within the Residence. Before scheduling alternate location please refer to the shared calendar for Respite or CVI to ensure availability.

- 4.) Face masks must be worn by all visitors during the entire visit with the exception of the time while eating if this is to occur during the visit. Individuals should wear a face mask if they are able.
- 5.) Only visitor and the individual they are visiting will be allowed in the visitation area.
- 6.) Staff will monitor visit, staying in an adequate proximity based on the individuals needs to ensure adequate spacing to ensure visit protocol instructions are followed.
- 7.) A minimum of six foot spacing should be maintained during the visit, as much as possible. A minimum of six foot spacing must be maintained during any time when both parties are not wearing a face mask such as during eating.
- 8.) Physical contact should be minimal (short hug, with visitor wearing a mask) and time limited. If touching occurs individual should sanitize hands after the contact. At no time should both parties remove their mask to engage in a kiss or touching of faces.
- 9.) Visitor(s) should not provide any items directly to the individual, if items are brought staff should handle the items and provide to the individual after appropriate disinfection, or in the case of food, after plating the food items and disposing of containers.
- 10.) If the restroom must be used by the Visitor, staff will ensure pathway is clear of other individuals so no contact between visitor and others occur. Restroom will be thoroughly disinfected after visitor use, prior to usage by any other parties.
- 11.) At the conclusion of the visit, after visitor departure, all areas where visitation occurred will be appropriately disinfected. Attention should be paid to any sitting surfaces or touch surfaces that visitor(s) had contact with including entrance door handles, chair arms/back (if non-porous), table tops etc.
- 12.) At the conclusion of the visit, the individual will be prompted and monitored to wash their hands before interacting with others in the residence.

If at any time during the visit the individual or visitor(s) are not able to follow the above requirements for visitation this visit will need to be ended. Staff will document the reason the visit had to be ended and Program Administration will follow-up as appropriate prior to future visitation.