



# Veterans' Homes Visitation Guidelines and Risks

Over the past year, NDVA's State Veterans' Homes have focused on protecting our members from COVID-19. We have put several practices into place to provide the best outcomes to protect our members and staff. One of those practices was limiting visitation. However, we recognize that physical separation from family and other loved ones may take a physical and emotional toll on some members. Considering this, the State Veterans' Homes are updating our practices regarding visitation within our long-term care facilities. These practices follow the most current and recommended guidelines from the CDC and local health departments.

## Visitation at the State Veterans' Homes

Visitation can be conducted through different means such as virtual visits, in-person visits within a members' rooms and dedicated visitation spaces, outdoor visits, and visits for circumstances for compassionate care situations.

For all the different methods of visitation, continuing to take precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 remains vitally important. **At this time, not all members and staff are fully vaccinated, making it possible for them to still become infected by visitors.**

CDC and public health continue to evaluate if individuals can spread COVID-19, including new variants, even if they are vaccinated. Therefore, the CDC still recommends maintaining the practices that reduce the spread of COVID-19 during visitation, such as:

- Wearing a mask
- Washing your hands
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance from others
  - *If member is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact, including touch, with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting facemask and washing hands before and after contact.*
  - *If **both** member and visitor(s) are fully vaccinated, they may have visit without wearing masks and social distancing. Visitor vaccination status will be asked during the screening process. Visitor(s) must continue to wear a mask and social distance from other staff, visitors, and members at all other times while in the State Veterans' Home.*

We will continue to take all necessary precautions after the vaccine is administered, including wearing PPE, conducting regular testing, and proper screening of visitors to ensure the safety of our members and staff.





























## Risks

The elderly population has a much higher risk for getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. The vaccine has been shown to provide a great deal of protection against serious illness due to COVID-19.

We still encourage our fully vaccinated members and their families to avoid high-risk situations as much as possible when they go out into the community. These high-risk situations include but are not limited to:

- Meeting unvaccinated individuals
- Joining large gathering (i.e. going to a sporting event)
- Attending crowded gatherings where social distancing is difficult
- Mask-less exposures in community/public (e.g. dining in restaurants)

# Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

## Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask

Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

Safest