



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.*

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)

Exposure Risk Examples

Scenario

Risk

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member for dinner.
All household individuals vaccinated.

Low

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member for dinner.
Only one individual vaccinated, and other individuals present.

High

Why? Non-vaccinated house-hold individuals and eating requires mask removal.

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member to a restaurant for a meal.

High

Why? Unmasked individuals of public and eating requires mask removal.

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member to a wedding.

High

Why? Large gathering.

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member to a medical appointment.

Low

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member to the grocery store.

Low *if going during non-peak time and able to maintain social distancing and masking.*

High *if going during peak time and unable to maintain social distancing and masking.*

Vaccinated family member/friend takes vaccinated member to an indoor graduation party at a small house.

High

Why? Crowded space and social distancing difficult to maintain.

To schedule a visit with your loved one, please visit veterans.nebraska.gov/covid19 or contact the home where they reside.

NDVA will continue to look for ways to bring members and their loved ones closer together and will update our practices to reflect the latest COVID-19 recommendations as we have done through the public health emergency.

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