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PIN 22-28-ASC
(Supersedes PIN 22-07-ASC)

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM RESIDENTIAL
LICENSEES

FROM: ***Original signed by Kevin Gaines***
KEVIN GAINES
Deputy Director
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SUBJECT: **BEST PRACTICES FOR VISITATION RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND THE RESCISSION OF THE
STATEWIDE VISITATION WAIVER**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 22-28-ASC provides best practices for visitation related to COVID-19 as a result of the State Public Health Officer Order of September 15, 2022. Effective September 17, 2022, the State Public Health Officer Order of September 15, 2022, rescinds the February 11, 2022, State Public Health Officer Order and the Statewide Waiver of Licensing Standards for Visitation in [PIN 22-07-ASC](#), dated February 7, 2022.

Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where all persons in care and facility staff as well as families and representatives of persons in care in the facility can easily access it and distribute the PIN to persons in care and/or, if applicable, their representatives.

There has been a dramatic increase in the percentage of Californians that are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Despite this increase, the Omicron subvariants have shown the ability to evade immunity conferred by past infection or vaccinations (i.e., immune evasion) and increased transmissibility. Unvaccinated

individuals still have a higher risk of infection; however, previously infected, vaccinated, and boosted persons have also been infected. Thus, mandated testing of unvaccinated visitors is not effectively preventing disease transmission as with the original COVID-19 virus and prior variants earlier in the pandemic. COVID-19 vaccination and boosters continue to remain the most important strategy to prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19.

Consequently, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), issued the [State Public Health Officer Order of September 15, 2022](#), which rescinded the February 11, 2022, State Public Health Officer Order, effective September 17, 2022. Visitors are no longer required to be tested or show proof of vaccination as a condition of visitation. Therefore, effective September 17, 2022, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) rescinded [PIN 22-07-ASC](#): Updated Statewide Visitation Waiver, and Testing and Vaccination Verification Guidance for Visitors Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Licensees should continue to offer testing for visitors in accordance with recommendations from CDPH or their local health department, and have the ability to ramp up testing if it is required again at a future date.

Important! Visitors must continue to comply with [CDPH Masking Guidance](#) while visiting in indoor settings and should continue to maintain all current infection prevention practices to continue protecting these most vulnerable populations.

Licensees should continue to follow guidance in all applicable CDSS [PINs](#) in addition to guidance or instructions from:

- Health care providers;
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#);
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#);
- [California Department of Developmental Services \(CDDS\)](#);
- [California Department of Industrial Relations \(DIR/ Cal/OSHA\)](#); and
- [Local health departments](#).

*If there are differing requirements between the most current CDC, CDPH, CDSS, CDDS, Cal/OSHA, and local health department guidance or health orders, **licensees should follow the strictest requirements**. However, there may be times where a licensee will need to contact their Regional Office for assistance in reconciling these differences, especially if the strictest requirements appear to be in conflict with the best interest of residents*

BEST PRACTICES FOR VISITATION

CDSS recommends ASC residential licensees continue to implement best practices for visitation related to COVID-19 as follows:

Screening Protocols

- Designate a facility staff member to conduct initial screening for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) of all individuals entering the facility.
- Ask visitors if they have had COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in the individual's home has COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive.
- Exclude any visitors showing COVID-19 symptoms. Discard items that cannot be disinfected or have the symptomatic individual take their items with them.

Masking and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- A well-fitting face mask is **required for visitors** at all times in indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status per [CDPH Masking Guidance](#). Masks are encouraged for visitors while outdoors where they are around others, including the resident they are visiting. Surgical masks, double masks, or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with a good fit are highly recommended. See [CDPH Get the Most out of Masking](#) and [Face Coverings Q&A](#) for additional information.
- Residents are not required to wear a face mask while at the facility, but licensees should encourage residents to wear a face mask (a well-fitting surgical mask or double mask is recommended) in indoor communal settings, regardless of their vaccination status. Licensees should also encourage unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated residents to wear a face mask (a well-fitting surgical mask or double mask is recommended) when outdoors and around others.
- Visitors of residents under quarantine should be provided and encouraged to don PPE (i.e., gloves, gown, eye protection and N95 respirator) and instructed in an N95 respirator seal check.
- For residents in isolation, the licensee should provide and require the visitor to wear PPE recommended for facility staff as specified in [PIN 22-15.1-ASC](#). A visitor of a resident under isolation does not need N95 respirator fit testing, but should be instructed on [how to perform a seal check](#).

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Designate handwashing stations for visitors or provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer for visitor use.
- Have visitors wash hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon entering the facility.
- Encourage respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (e.g., covering mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing or sneezing) in the event an individual develops respiratory symptoms while visiting the facility.

Ventilation and Air Quality

- Increase ventilation or circulation of fresh air as much as possible (e.g., open windows, use fans pointing towards the window/outside, etc.).
 - Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to residents, staff, and visitors using the facility.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the facility often and visitation areas after each visit.
- Staff should use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant (e.g., wipe) from [List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) when wiping down high-touch surfaces (e.g., light switch, doorknob, bedside table) before leaving the room.

Communal Dining

- Visitors shall be allowed to remove their face mask while actively eating or drinking and must wear a well-fitting face mask while indoors at all other times.
- Staff should clean and disinfect surfaces after each visit in the communal dining area.

Educating Visitors

- Send letters or emails to families and post signs at entrances reminding them of the importance of remaining up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Post signage at entrances and throughout the facility outlining proper mask wearing and hand hygiene.
- Educate visitors on how to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources are available online:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
 - [Community Care Licensing Division homepage](#) (includes all COVID-19 related materials (Provider Information Notices (PINs) and other resources)

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
 - [All COVID-19 Guidance](#)
 - [Get Tested, California](#)
 - [Local health departments](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your local [ASC Regional Office](#).