# **Overview**

The purpose of this document is to provide visitation guidance for Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Residential Programs. On May 29, 2021, the Commonwealth lifted COVID-19 restrictions while maintaining necessary COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in certain settings, including residential and congregate care programs. This guidance replaces and supersedes all previous visitation guidance issued by DDS.

# **Guidance**

Programs should return to pre-pandemic visitation practices and policies with the following exceptions:

* Visitors should be screened before entering the home. Any visitors with [symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) of COVID-19 infection, a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or close contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor’s vaccination status) will not be permitted to enter.
* While visitor vaccination can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors should not be required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.
* Settings should keep a daily log of names and contact information for all visitors.
* Appropriate safety, care, and infection control measures and policies should be in place for all visits.
* Visitation will be restricted if the resident has had a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 10 days or is presumed positive. Visitation will also be restricted if there is a COVID-19 outbreak at the setting.
* Programs should communicate visitation guidelines to families and/or guardians and should continue to augment in-person visitation by supporting attempts by families and guardians to visit remotely using technology, including phone and video calls.
* Visitors must wear masks at all times indoors at the home except if fully vaccinated and visiting a fully vaccinated resident in their room.
	+ *Fully vaccinated individuals are defined as 14 days or more after their final dose. In a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after their second dose. After a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine, the individual is fully vaccinated 14 days or more after the single dose.*
* Residents who are fully vaccinated may visit with loved ones who are fully vaccinated without maintaining social distancing or wearing masks, if they choose.
* Guidance may be subject to change as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or local boards of health.