

Visitation and Mask Usage FAQs



Q: Can we establish visitation hours?

A: Visitation hours, if established, should be at least nine hours long for skilled facilities, and 12 hours for residential facilities. Facilities **MUST** still allow visitation outside these hours.

Q. Can the number of visitors be limited?

A. In the semi-private room and necessary to promote social distancing, the facility may limit visitors, but such limitation must still allow for at least two visitors, **per resident at any given time**.

- In a private room, a vaccinated resident may have any number of vaccinated visitors at one time as space allows.
- In a semi-private room, more than one visitor/per resident must be allowed if desired but must be able to ensure social distancing. The privacy curtain should be pulled. If the room is small, you may encourage having one resident have visitors outside the room.

Q. Is proof of a visitor's vaccination status required?

A. No, the visitor should be asked if they are vaccinated.

Q. Can a newly admitted unvaccinated resident have visitors?

A. Newly admitted resident should be allowed visitors under the Compassionate Care (CC) or Essential Family Caregiver (EFC) guidance, however they are not to have unlimited visitors.

Q. How can the return to conventional mask use (universal controls) be done if wearing masks all the time?

A. Universal source control (procedure masks for healthcare personnel [HCP] and cloth mask for residents) has not changed and should be worn in all resident care areas for HCP and residents who are not vaccinated at all times. Vaccinated residents have the ability to choose to not wear masks in activities where all persons are fully vaccinated. Staff may still wear the same procedure mask the entire shift and change them when wet or soiled or after breaks based on facility guidelines.

Q. How can the return to conventional mask use for N95 respirators occur and how do we transition from KN95 per CDC/FDA guidance be done?

A. CDC recommendations include moving to conventional use for N95 respirators when used in transmission-based precautions (TBP) for COVID 19. Also, the CDC specifically asks facilities to transition use of the approved KN95 and replace with NIOSH approved N95. It is OK to use up any KN95 stockpile for universal source control in place of procedure masks and in TBP. Both should be used with conventional use not crisis capacity or re-use.

Situational update as of May 2021: The supply and availability of NIOSH-approved respirators have increased significantly over the last several months. Healthcare facilities should not be using crisis capacity strategies at this time and should promptly resume conventional practices.



1. Check the [NIOSH Certified Equipment List](#) to identify all NIOSH-approved respirators.
2. Healthcare facilities should stop purchasing non-NIOSH approved respirators for use as respiratory protection and consider using any that have been stored for source control where respiratory protection is not needed.
3. Respirators that were previously used and decontaminated should not be stored.
4. We do not know the long- term stability of non-NIOSH approved respirators and respirators that have been decontaminated, and if these will be recommended for use in the future.
5. Healthcare facilities should return to using only NIOSH-approved respirators where needed.

Q: Can vaccinated HCP in non-resident areas, such as the kitchen, laundry or private offices, unmask with other vaccinated HCP?

A: Yes, at these times:

- **Private office or break room:** Yes, when alone or with other vaccinated HCP. Mask should be available for donning if unvaccinated persons enter. If HCP's vaccine status is unknown, consider the staff member unvaccinated.
- **Kitchens:** Yes, as long as residents are not in the kitchen, and when the kitchen staff wear a mask when they go into the dining room. Also, staff should mask if there are any fans blowing in the kitchen as in the end of day on the floor.
- **Laundry:** Yes, they can unmask if they work alone or if with a fully vaccinated co-worker. When HCP come and go into the laundry they need to mask or if there is a fan in the area then mask would be advised. If they are doing COVID laundry, then gown, gloves, and mask.
- If resident accessible areas including nurses' station, these don't apply

Q: Can vaccinated HCP unmask in resident care areas, such as the nurse's station, hallways, resident rooms or the dining room?

A: No, not at this time.

Q: When housekeeping is using a fan to dry a floor after cleaning/waxing, is that considered an aerosol generating procedure?

A: Yes. Staff must wear proper PPE according to the zone where the fan is in use.

Q: Can visitor dine with the residents?

A: Fully vaccinated residents and fully vaccinated visitors may dine together if it is in private room, with pulled curtain in a semi-private room, or in a private dining area. Visitors are not allowed to dine in common dining area.

