



# INLAND REGIONAL CENTER

*...valuing independence, inclusion and empowerment*

P. O. Box 19037, San Bernardino, CA 92423

Telephone: (909) 890-3000

Fax: (909) 890-3001

April 27, 2021

To: Inland Regional Center (IRC) Licensed Residential Facilities and Family Home Agencies

Subject: Directive Regarding Visitation to Clients Residing in Residential Facilities and IRC Staff Monitoring Visits

This Directive allows further guidance on the directives issued by the [Department of Developmental Services \(DDS\) on April 21, 2021](#), and the [Department of Social Services PIN 21-17 ASC](#), dated March 19, 2021. Specifically, DDS has directed IRC to begin in-person monitoring visits at all licensed residential facilities (Community Care Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities), Family Home Agency settings, Supported Living/Independent Living settings and Family Homes if requested by the client and their Circle of Support. The licensee is to follow the strictest guidance on visitation requirements as determined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Public Health, DDS, and/or Riverside or San Bernardino County Department of Health.

Vaccination of IRC clients can be limited due to medical restrictions, religious choice and/or client choice. Continuation of protective measures to include but not limited to proper use of face covering, hand washing, distancing (6 feet minimum), avoidance of crowds or poorly ventilated indoor spaces and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be standard and required, until further notice. A person is determined "vaccinated," when they are two weeks from the last shot in the two-shot vaccine schedule or after the first shot of the single dose vaccine. Two weeks from the last shot is the current standard.

For visitation to a licensed residential facility, all visitors will need to be screened by the residential staff for elevated temperatures and Covid-19 symptoms. Each visitor should complete a basic questionnaire and have their temperature checked to see if they have any Covid-19 symptoms and any visitor showing symptoms regardless of vaccine status must be turned away. A sample template of a questionnaire is attached. This is only an example; each provider can

create their own questionnaire. A face covering and appropriate social distancing are necessary for arrival and check-in.

If all visitors and the resident/client are vaccinated, they may visit in the client's personal room or another section of the house (Ex: family room or kitchen) but must wear face coverings during the entirety of the visit. They may have close contact (Ex: hugs and touching). If the resident/client shares a room, then the room is off limits for visitation. Visitation inside the house, while other residents are in the facility will be allowed, only if the licensee or residential staff deem it appropriate and safe for all residents.

What is recommended for all visitation is outdoor visits, where all parties if vaccinated, may remove their masks and have close contact, if no other residents or staff are outside in that area. If not all visitors or the resident/client are vaccinated, they can and should be allowed to visit outdoors. During those visits, face coverings and social distancing must be maintained by all parties.

Licensees and staff are encouraged to limit the number of visitors at any one time, based on the size of the physical space where the visit will occur. Visitor movement throughout the facility must be limited to designated and specific areas. Handwashing areas should be designated for all visitors and clients before and after visitation. Record the name and contact information of each visitor and the date of visit, in case of possible need to contact trace. Proper cleaning and disinfection should be done, prior to and after each visitation.

IRC Consumer Service Coordinators (CSC) Quality Assurance Liaisons, and other designated IRC staff (BCBA, RN, etc.) are considered "essential visitors," and although it is recommended that most of the visit be done outside or via remote technology, there is an expectation that they enter the facility and complete thorough assessments of entire physical plant. This may include but is not limited to the client(s) room and closet, the kitchen to include the pantry and refrigerator, the living areas, garage, and facility/client records. IRC staff shall not be limited access to any part of the residential facilities physical plant. IRC staff must also comply with all entry standards to include answering the questionnaire and having their temperature checked. They must also wear PPE during all visits.

The guidance for clients visiting their families and friends has changed to where all clients have the right to outings and outdoor activities. Prior to a client outing, it is necessary to have an Interdisciplinary Team Meeting to include but not limited to the client, the family/friend, the licensee/residential staff and the IRC CSC.

Outings may not be limited or restricted. Licensees should provide education to the client on safe visitation guidelines and PPE. When the client returns, the client should be screened daily for symptoms of Covid-19. If the resident/client came into close contact with anyone positive for Covid-19 during the outing, they must quarantine

the in their own room for up to 14 days. For more on quarantine guidelines and client outings, see [PIN 21-17 ASC](#).

It has been a difficult year for all of us, and especially the IRC licensed residential providers and staff. Your commitment to the quality care of our mutual clients is and has been extraordinary. If you should have any questions related to the guidance, please contact your Quality Assurance Liaison for assistance.

Sincerely,

Vince Toms  
Community Services Director