



INLAND REGIONAL CENTER

...valuing independence, inclusion and empowerment

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September 22, 2021

To: Inland Regional Center (IRC) Licensed Residential Facilities, Family Home Agencies, Supported Living Services, Clients in Independent Living

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

This Directive gives further guidance on the directives issued by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on April 21, 2021, and the Inland Regional Center (IRC) Directive Regarding Visitation, dated April 27, 2021 (this directive supersedes that directive). Specifically, DDS has directed IRC to continue 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.

The licensee still must 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), 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.

Family and Non-IRC Staff

For visitation to a licensed residential facility, all visitors will need to be screened by the residential staff for Covid-19 symptoms. It is highly recommended that all visitors present a copy of their Covid-19 vaccination card on arrival. Each visitor should complete a basic questionnaire to see if they have any Covid-19 symptoms and any visitor showing symptoms regardless of vaccine status must be turned away. A face covering and appropriate social distancing are necessary for arrival and check-in.

If all visitors and the client are vaccinated, they may visit in the client's personal room or another secluded 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). Visitation inside the house, while other residents are in the facility will be allowed, only if the licensee or staff deem it appropriate and safe for all residents.

What is recommended for all visitation is outdoor visits, where all parties if vaccinated, can remove their masks, and have close contact, if no other residents or staff are outside in that area. If not all visitors or the client are vaccinated, they can and should be allowed to visit outdoors. During these 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 secluded areas. Handwashing areas should be designated for all visitors and clients before and after visitation. Record the name and contact information of each visitor, in case of possible need to contact trace. Proper cleaning and disinfection should be done, prior to and after each visitation.

The guidance for clients visiting their families and friends has changed to where all clients have the right to outings. Outings may not be limited. 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 they came into close contact with anyone positive for Covid-19 during the outing, they must quarantine the client in their own room for up to 14 days. For more on quarantine guidelines and client outings, see PIN 21-17 ASC.

IRC Staff

IRC Service Coordinators (CC) and Quality Assurance Liaisons (QAL) are considered "essential visitors," and although it is recommended that most of the visits 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) rooms and closets, the kitchen to include the pantry and refrigerator, the living areas, garage and facility and client records (MARS, client notes, medical/dental records, P&I Ledgers, etc.). These expectations are the same for Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings, quarterly meetings, or the Quality Assurance Annual Reviews. The licensee or staff shall not limit access to any part of the residential physical plant or client records.

To lessen the footprint of IRC staff in the facility, we would recommend that the SCs and QALs coordinate with the licensee and/or staff to get as much of the client or facility records needed for review, prior to physically going to the facility, via electronic

record and during the scheduling call. If the licensee and/or staff cannot send the records prior, due to staffing issues, then they need to communicate that during the scheduling call, so the IRC SC or QAL can plan their visit accordingly. If a licensee cannot send the records prior, then they must have them all ready for review at the time of the visit and allow the IRC staff an appropriate and safe place and the time needed to review the records.

During the scheduling call, the IRC staff can ask for the records prior to the visit, they must ask for the vaccination status of the client, if any clients or staff in the facility are exhibiting signs or symptoms of Covid-19 and the level and amount of PPE necessary for entry to the facility.

IRC staff must also comply with all entry standards to include answering the facility questionnaire and having their temperature checked. They must also wear adequate PPE during the entirety of the visit.

It continues to be a difficult year for all parties, especially the IRC licensed residential providers and staff. If you should have any questions related to the guidance, please contact your Quality Assurance Liaison for assistance. We thank you for your continued service to our mutual clients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V-T", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Vince Toms
Community Services Director