

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Incident Command:
VA LOMA LINDA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM VISITOR POLICY**
Updated:12/22/2021 Rescinds all previous versions

PURPOSE: The goal of this document is to provide guidance on current inpatient visitation and outpatient accompaniment practices at VA Loma Linda HS

POLICY: At this time, there is a reduced rate of COVID-19 infection throughout the general community. Families and loved ones wishing to visit Veterans within the VA Loma Linda Medical Center may do so if they adhere to the restrictions described within this policy.

*Individuals are considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Screening and personal safety precautions:

1. To protect Veterans, visitors and staff, all persons will be screened for COVID-19 entering all VALLHCS facilities and will be asked to observe the following safety precautions:
 - a. Participate in check point screening (questions/QR code and temperature check),
 - b. Wear a mask or tight-fitting face covering at all times (no handkerchiefs, gaiters, etc.),
 - c. Maintain 6 feet distance from others, perform hand hygiene,
 - d. Follow the directions of hospital staff,
 - e. Limit 3 persons per elevator,
 - f. Keep the visit as short as possible

PROCEDURE FOR VISITATION OR OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENT

Screeners:

1. All Screeners will ask the visitors of their purpose of visit, upon arrival to the facility. If the individuals are **visiting an inpatient unit**, they must display one of the following items to enter the facility:
 - a. Show proof of being fully vaccinated in accordance with the CDC guidance (minimum of 2 weeks from last vaccination)
 - b. Show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three (3) days of the visit.
 - c. Present their government ID to match the name on the CDC card or COVID-19 test results.
2. If the visitors qualify for visitation, the Screeners will allow them to proceed.

Outpatient Areas:

1. One caregiver or assistant is allowed to accompany a Veteran into VALLHCS facilities for office visits/procedures and applies to veterans
 - a. with disabilities preventing them from navigating the appointment alone
 - b. requiring a caregiver to support the patient's ability to understand or participate in the care or treatment
2. Children accompanying parents to an outpatient appointment
 - a. Children 2 years old and up are permitted to enter VA Loma Linda's facilities
 - b. Children must complete the full screening process
 - c. Children must wear a mask at all times
 - d. Children must remain in physical proximity to the parent at all times
 - e. **Children are not permitted in any inpatient or community living center areas**

Inpatient Nursing:

1. All visitors must present themselves to the inpatient nurse's station prior to visiting an admitted Veteran to receive approval to enter the patient's room. The visitor may qualify for visitation if they:
 - a. Show proof of being fully vaccinated in accordance with the CDC guidance (minimum of 2 weeks from last vaccination)
 - b. Or can show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three (3) days of the visit.
 - c. Present their government ID to match the name on the CDC card or COVID-19 test results.
2. Visitors are **not allowed** to visit any patient currently hospitalized in COVID19 isolation precautions, including any patient under investigation (PUI).

Visitors:

1. Visitors may visit a patient no more than once per day.
2. Visitation may last for a maximum of 30 minutes.
3. Only two visitors are permitted to visit a Veteran at a time.
4. All visitors must show evidence that they have been vaccinated with full protection* (including a copy of their CDC card) or show evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within the last three (3) days and be asymptomatic.
5. All approved visitors must show valid government ID to match the name on their CDC card or COVID-19 test results.

COVID Unit Visitation for End-of-Life:

1. Visitors are only permitted to enter COVID-19 inpatient units if the Veteran is at end-of-life.
2. Only two visitors are permitted to visit a Veteran at a time.
3. All visitors must show evidence that they have been vaccinated with full protection* (including a copy of their CDC card) or show evidence of a negative COVID-19 molecular test performed within the last three (3) days and be asymptomatic.

4. All approved visitors must show valid government ID to match the name on their CDC card or COVID-19 test results.
5. All approved visitors must sign an informed consent to acknowledge and accept the risk associated with entering a COVID-19 inpatient unit.
6. All visitors must wear a gown, gloves and a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) for the duration of the visit.
7. Donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) must be supervised by a member of the Nursing Service.

Community Living Center

1. This policy does not apply to visitation within the Community Living Center.

Approved BY:

Ryan Mancari, MBA
Incident Commander