



June 8, 2022

Personal Protective Equipment, Screening and Visitation in CMS-certified Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals, and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs):

Authority:

- [Guidance for use of Certain Industrial Respirators by Health Care Personnel \(QSO-20-17-ALL\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Survey Tool for Acute and Continuing Care Providers and Suppliers \(REVISED\) \[QSO-21-08-NLTC REVISED 02/04/2022\]](#)
- [OHA Health Care Setting Masking Requirements FAQ](#)

Applicability: This guidance applies to Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals, and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

I. Personal Protective Equipment

Facilities subject to this guidance shall adopt and enforce policies and procedures that align with the CMS requirement that certified facilities to implement recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Oregon health care setting masking requirements. CDC continues to recommend use of Personal Protective Equipment for healthcare personnel, patients, support persons and visitors in healthcare settings. The CDC definition of healthcare settings includes the CMS-certified Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals and CAHs. OHA guidance aligns with the CDC guidance.

II. Screening

The focus of the newest CMS guidance is mostly a return to less restricted visitation, but there is a continuing expectation that hospitals maintain infection control standards in light of current conditions.

The current CDC recommendations from their [infection control guidance](#) include multiple considerations in their [FAQ](#) regarding visitor restrictions:

Options could include (but are not limited to): individual screening on arrival at the facility; or implementing an electronic monitoring system in which individuals can self-report any of the above before entering the facility.

- Health Care Personnel (HCP) should report positive tests for SARS-CoV-2, symptoms of COVID-19, or high-risk exposure to with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection to occupational health or another point of contact designated by the facility, even if they are up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses. Recommendations for evaluation and work restriction of these HCP are in the [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#).
- Even if they have met [community criteria](#) to discontinue isolation or quarantine, visitors **should not visit** if they have any of the following and have not met the same criteria used to discontinue isolation and quarantine for patients. Additional information is available in [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers | CDC](#).
 - 1) a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2,
 - 2) [symptoms of COVID-19](#), or
 - 3) close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection
- Additional information about visitation for [nursing homes](#) and [intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and psychiatric residential treatment facilities](#) is available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Patients meeting any of the 3 above criteria should be managed as described in the CDC's [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) guidance Section 2 – Recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices when caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.

HCP, patients and visitors should be [offered resources and counseled](#) about the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

III. Visitation

Oregon distinguishes between visitors and support persons who provide assistance to patients with disabilities. There are specific protections to ensure that patient support persons may assist patients with disabilities¹.

As noted above, CMS has provided guidance on increased visitation stating:

“We recognize that requirements for entering healthcare facilities such as visitation restrictions were used to mitigate the introduction of COVID-19 into facilities. At this time, continued federal guidance regarding visitation restrictions for ACC facilities are no longer necessary. Facilities should continue to adhere to basic COVID-19 infection prevention principles consistent with national standards of practice.”

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¹ See [SB 1606: Hospital Support Persons](#) and [SB 1606: Patient Access to Support Persons while in the Hospital](#) for additional information. Support persons entering the hospital are subject to COVID-19 screening and can also be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE). If screening reflects infection or possible infection of the support person or the support person refuses to wear required PPE, the hospital may refuse to allow that designated support person to be present and the hospital should permit a different designated support person who meetings screening and PPE requirements to be present.