



Indiana State Department of Health

Long-term Care Facility Outdoor Visitation FAQ

What kind of visitation is currently being allowed?

Limited outdoor visitation is now being permitted, if certain facility and community conditions exist and as weather permits. In-facility visitation of residents is still prohibited for now.

What types of facilities are covered by the [outdoor visitation guidance](#)?

The guidance pertains to all long-term care facilities licensed by ISDH – nursing homes and residential care facilities, or licensed assisted living.

Will there be scheduled hours for the outdoor visitation?

Yes, but the facility will set those hours and the schedule may change. For example, if the facility determines that weather is unsuitable, a resident cannot be safely moved outdoors, or if the facility cannot comply with our guidance requirements, visitation may be canceled or unavailable. The guidance also makes clear that facilities “may establish additional guidelines as needed to ensure the safety of visitations and their facility’s operations.”

Must I wear a mask for these visits, even though they are outdoors with social distancing?

Yes, a face covering or mask must be worn during the entire visitation. The guidance discusses other visitor requirements, and the facility may require other reasonable precautions to protect the residents.

Is the visitation open for all ages?

Visitation is generally restricted to adults and children who are 12 years of age or older. If a facility determines that special circumstances justify relaxing this requirement, it may allow younger visitors on a case-by-case basis.

Can I bring food?

Yes, you can bring food for someone, but you cannot share food with the resident (e.g., you cannot both eat from the same bag of chips). Also, if the resident has a dietary restriction (e.g., can only have soft foods or cannot eat certain types of food) then the food must meet these restrictions. If you are unsure if your loved one has food restrictions contact the facility ahead of time to learn what is allowed.

Is there any other visitation allowed now?

Yes, there is an exception for visitors for compassionate care situations, such as end of life. These exceptions are made case by case and should weigh the risk of viral transmission with the

need for compassionate end-of-life care. More details on family visitation for end-of-life situations can be found [here](#).

What if I am wrongly denied visitation with my loved one?

If you believe you have been wrongly denied visitation, or you have questions that aren't answered by these FAQs or the guidance, you may email us at familyoutreach@isdh.in.gov or leave a voice message at (317) 233-7176 (effective June 9). This email address and phone line are dedicated to concerns about COVID-19 information, communication, and visitation with loved ones in long term care facilities. For other concerns or complaints, please contact our Complaints Program at (317) 233-7241 or complaints@isdh.in.gov.