



1600 Veterans Drive  
Lisbon, ND 58054  
701-683-6500

March 26, 2021

Family Members,

The update we share today is truly newsworthy. Please carefully read each update, the news is exciting, and we do not want you to miss important details.

1. Indoor visitation can now be in residents’ rooms however visitor movement throughout the facility is not allowed. All visits need to be scheduled with the case managers. Please read the attached **“Guidelines for Visitation”** regarding this process.
2. Residents may leave the NDVH campus while understanding infection control measures needed upon return is dependent upon vaccination status. This includes NDVH activities and residents leaving independently, see attachment **“COVID-19 Residents Leaving Grounds.”**
3. We are currently in a non-outbreak status which means COVID-19 testing dates will be held for staff only, our next testing date is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that this can change and fluctuations in positive cases can change the visitation guidelines, see attachment **“COVID-19 Outbreak Status Flow Chart for Visitation.”**
4. The updated Safety Plan reflects several changes that have been announced on federal and state levels, see attachment **“Safety Plan.”**

We are incredibly happy for residents and family members as we take our first major step to a new normal. As it has been over a year since many of you have been in the building please remember that we love to see your four-legged family members too, please provide a copy of current vaccination records when you come to visit. Thank you for your patience as you awaited these anticipated changes.

Please feel free to call us with any questions that you may have. Have a wonderful weekend!

**Helpful links:**

NDVH COVID-19 Safety Plan: [Safety Plan](#)

ND Statewide Map, Ransom County needs to be blue in order to advance to stage 3 in the VP3 reopening phases: [Active Cases of COVID-19 Per Capita](#)

ND Department of Health COVID-19 [ND Cases](#)

Sincerely,

Mark B. Johnson  
Administrator  
701-683-6501

Wanda Cavett  
Director of Nursing  
701-683-6515

Ashley Olson  
Director of Social Services  
701-683-6530

Kristin Lunneborg  
CFO  
701-683-6503

Kelly Lyons  
Infection Control,  
CCP  
701-683-6585



## GUIDELINES FOR VISITATION

### Indoor and Compassionate Care

- Resident or visitor will contact case manager to schedule visits.
- All visitations will be by appointment only.
- Visitation will be limited to 4 individuals; this is subject to change depending upon resident needs.
- Visitors who are unable to adhere to guidelines of COVID-19 infection prevention will not be permitted to visit or will be asked to leave. (Such as children under age 2 who are unable to wear a mask)
- Screenings will take place at the front entrance. **Do not visit if you have any of the following symptoms:** *cough, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, muscle/body aches, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, chills, new loss of taste/smell, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea; or if you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days.*
- Complete hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Face mask must be worn by resident and guests at all times. NDVH will provide a surgical mask to the guest, they should not wear their own.
- Go directly to resident's room and complete hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Residents and families should continue to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, including social distancing, but if resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting mask and performing hand hygiene before and after.
- Visitor should still socially distance from other residents and staff in the facility.
- Visitors must remain in the resident's room with whom they are visiting.
- Gathering in common areas is not allowed.
- No visitors at group activities or services.
- **You cannot eat or drink during this visit.**
- Resident's personal bathroom will be used.
- Complete hand hygiene following visit.
- BinaxNOW Rapid Testing may be requested but not required.



## GUIDELINES FOR VISITATION

### **Outdoor Visitation:**

- Outside visitation will be conducted in the Gazebo or Basic Pavilion depending on weather as needed. Number of people per visit will depend upon location.

**Schedule ALL visits with Case Managers a minimum of 24 hours in advance.**

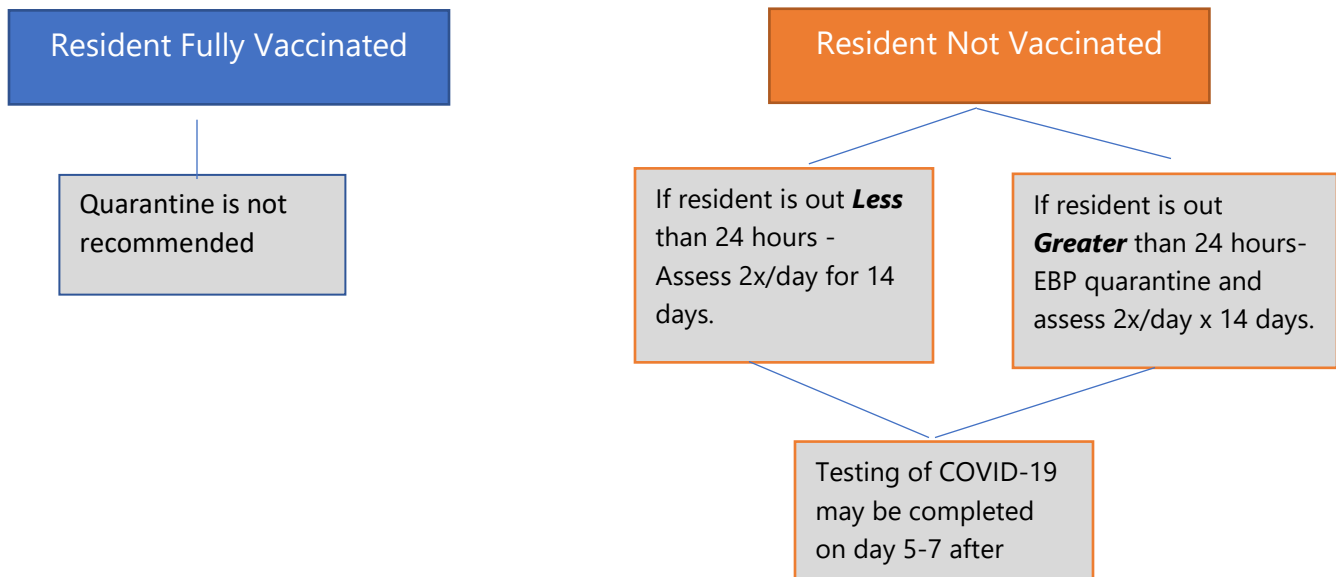
**Case Managers can be reached.  
Monday-Fridays from 8:00am to 4:30pm.**

Ashley Olson, 701-683-6530  
Harlee Hesse, 701-683-6532  
LeAnn Fix, 701-683-6531

**When traveling off the grounds**

**Resident expectations:**

1. Check out with nursing at the time you leave. Please tell them how long you think you will be gone.
2. Make sure you have masks and hand sanitizer. Clean your hands frequently.
3. Continue to practice social distancing and wearing your mask. **AVOID** busy places, such as bars and restaurants.
4. Immediately upon return, exchange your mask for a clean one. This will be located by the door. Do hand hygiene.
5. Check in with nursing. Please let them know if you attended a larger event (such as a family wedding or funeral).



**\*Fully vaccinated means:  $\geq 2$  weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series or  $\geq 2$  weeks after one dose of a single-dose vaccine. \***

6. Regardless of vaccination status upon return if identified as being a close contact with someone with COVID-19, you will need to be quarantined.

**If resident is identified as being a close contact nursing to initiate the following:**

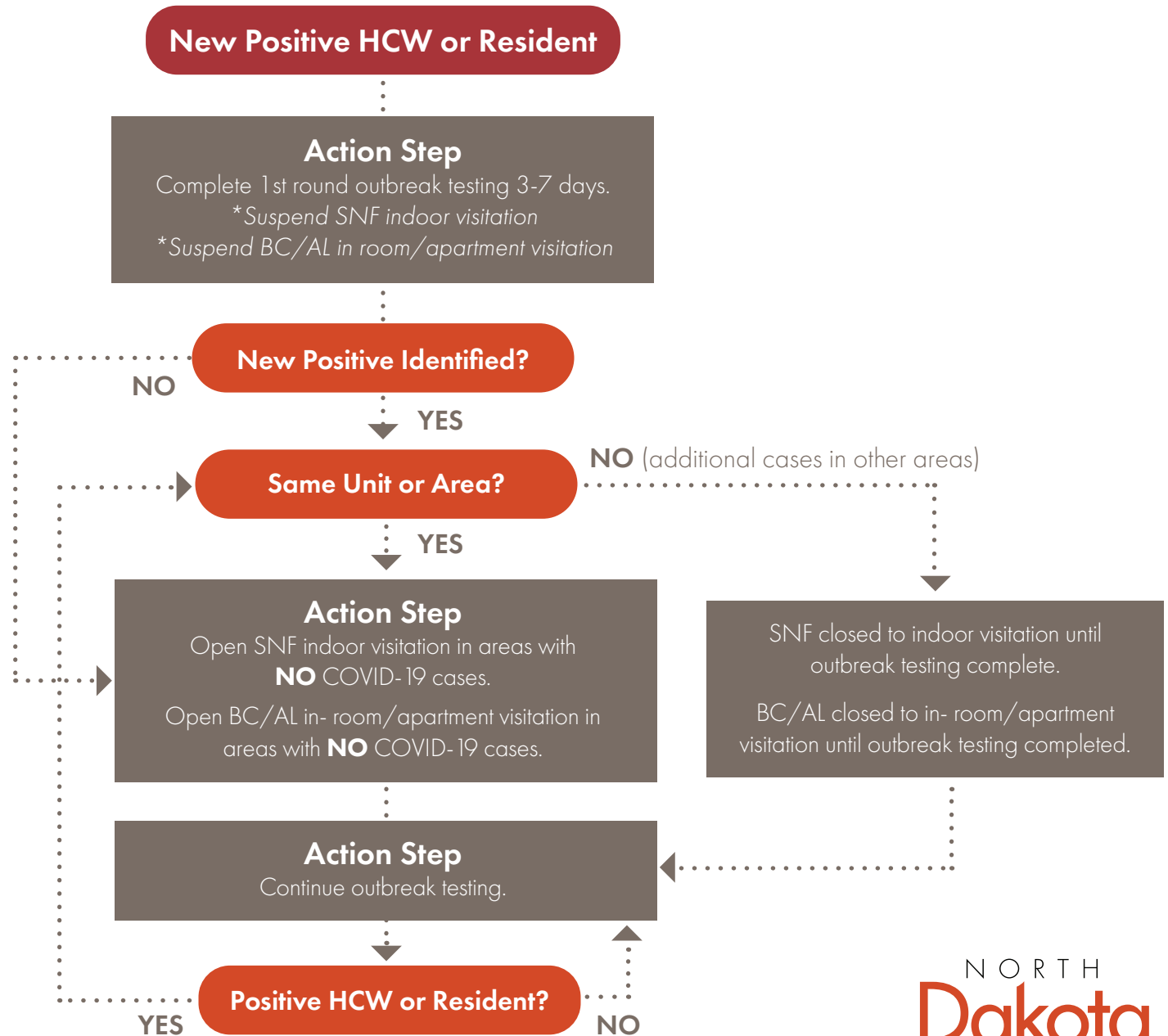
- Quarantine in room with **DROPLET** Precautions including an N95 mask. Door must remain closed
- Testing completed on days 7-10 from a known exposure to a confirmed case & again on day 14
- Close contacts may be removed from quarantine after 14 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case and negative test results

# COVID-19 Outbreak Status Flow Chart for Visitation

## Skilled Nursing Facilities, Basic Care and Assisted Living

### Abbreviation Glossary:

HCW = Healthcare Worker  
 SNF = Skilled Nursing Facility  
 BC = Basic Care  
 AL = Assisted Living





## COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

### Safety Plan

We are doing what we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the North Dakota Veterans Home. By staying in close communication with local and state health officials we are taking the necessary steps to minimize COVID-19.

- Over the last several months we have completed several rounds of testing.
- Staff and residents will be tested following the North Dakota testing structure for skilled nursing facilities. Currently we have two testing dates scheduled for staff in April. **3-26-2021**

The North Dakota Veterans Home is staying in close communication with local and state health officials to ensure all the appropriate steps are being done. We continue to follow the guidance from the CDC and CMS to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, including:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening staff at the beginning and the end of their shifts **11-2-2020**
- Screening essential visitors for symptoms
- Following reopening phase guidelines for entry of people to the building
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols and availability of tests.
- Following visitation and service guidance for skilled nursing facilities. It provides guidance in accordance with county and facility positivity rate. This covers indoor visitation, outdoor visitation, communal dining, activities, resident screening and screening of staff and vendors. **3-26-2021**
- Indoor Visitation can now be in residents' rooms however visitor movement throughout the facility is not allowed. **3-26-2021**
- Outdoor visitation continues to be available.
- Resident interaction with social distancing, facemasks, and hand hygiene in place **1-27-2021**
- Communal dining with social distancing in place **1-27-2021**
- Group activities with social distancing, facemasks, and hand hygiene in place **as of 1-27-2021**
- Resident screening (questions, temperature and Oxygen Stats will take place 1x a day.) **3-26-2021**



## COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

- Residents may leave the NDVH campus while understanding infection control measures needed upon return is dependent upon vaccination status. This includes NDVH activities and residents leaving independently.

3-26-2021