

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



November 19, 2021

Family Members,

There is some exciting news to share with you all regarding changes in visitation guidelines. Last week the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released updated guidance included in the QSO-20-39-NH. Please take time to review the [visitation guidelines which can be found on the COVID-19 tab on our website and/or attached to this email.](#)

[A summary of the changes is listed here:](#)

Starting Saturday, November 20th, visitation will be allowed for all residents at all times.
PLEASE USE THE MAIN ENTRANCE ONLY. Visitors will not be allowed to enter at the pod entrances.

- If a visitor, resident, or their representative is aware of the risks associated with visitation and the visit occurs in a manner that does not place other residents at risk (e.g., in the resident's room), the resident must be allowed to receive visitors as he/she chooses.
- Residents may continue to deny or withdraw consent for a visitation at any time.

North Dakota Veterans Home (NDVH) will screen all who enter at the main entrance.

- Visitors who have a positive viral test for COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should not enter the facility.

Visits are allowed at all times and for all residents following current guidelines.

- NDVH will no longer limit the frequency and length of visitation for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance schedule of visits.

Physical distancing must be maintained. Visitors should not walk around different areas of NDVH. They should go directly to the resident they are visiting with. NDVH is required to avoid large gatherings where large numbers of visitors are in the same space at the same time and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We are thrilled to share this news as we enter Thanksgiving season. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are so thankful for your continued support!

Helpful links:

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



UPDATED VISITATION GUIDELINES | 11-19-2021

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If Ransom county's COVID-19 community level of transmission is high:

- all residents and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, should wear face coverings/masks and physical distance at all times.

If Ransom county's transmission level is low:

- the safest practice is to wear face coverings/masks and physically distance.
- If all visitors and the resident are fully vaccinated and the resident is not moderately or severely immunocompromised, they may choose not to wear a face covering and have physical contact.



UPDATED VISITATION GUIDELINES | 11-19-2021

Visitors should wear face coverings/masks while around other residents or health care personnel, regardless of vaccination status.

Visitors will be asked to use hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)

Cleaning and disinfecting high-frequency touched surfaces in the facility often and designated areas after each visit.

Residents in isolation or quarantine, while not recommended, can still receive visitors in the resident's room.

- The resident should wear a well-fitting facemask (if tolerated). Visitors will be made aware of the risks of visitation and educated on core principles of infection prevention. NDVH is not required to but may offer masks and other PPE as appropriate.

Visitation during Outbreak:

- Visitors are allowed into the Veterans Home, but they must be made aware of the potential risk of visiting.
- Visitation during outbreak should include wearing face coverings/masks, regardless of vaccination status, and visits should ideally occur in the resident's room.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination:

- NDVH will offer testing to visitors, if feasible, but it is not required.
- NDVH will ask visitors about their vaccination status, but visitors are not required to be vaccinated, or show proof of such, as a condition of visitation.
- If a visitor declines to disclose their vaccination status, they should always wear a face covering/mask.
- CMS strongly encourages all visitors to become vaccinated