



RESIDENTIAL VISITATION PROCEDURE

We are updating the residential visitation procedure at the instruction of the Department of Families, effective immediately.

Purpose: To prevent the spread of COVID-19 while balancing between preventative measures and the benefits of social connections for people supported and their loved ones.

Applicable: To all people visiting or gathering at any place.

Procedure for Residential Visitation to VOI Departments

1. Each person supported may choose **up to two (2)** visitors that can visit them at the department (**indoor and outdoor**). A visitor is any person the person supported and/or their SDM chooses and can include family members, friends, advocates or someone in the person's support network. It **does not** include service providers (CSWs, respite workers, DSPs, etc.).
2. All visits must be pre-booked with the Facility Manager in advance of the proposed scheduled visit.
3. The time of day for visits and length of visits will be at the discretion of the Facility Manager based on operational needs of their department and available staffing. CLDS encourages Facility Managers and staff to consider evening visitation times as well due to visitors' schedules.
4. **The total number of visitors at a department at one time cannot be more than three (3), one (1) indoor and two (2) outdoor, for all supported people.** Facility Managers are encouraged to stagger visitation so there are as few people at once as possible.
5. All visitors must comply with infection prevention and control measures. This includes strict hand hygiene **before, during (if possible) and after** any visit and maintaining physical distancing (6 feet/2 meters apart) whenever possible. Any personal contact should be brief and kept to a minimum.
6. People supported are not required to wear PPE during visitation but wearing a non-medical mask during visits is encouraged.
7. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair, if possible.
8. The department reserves the right to cancel visits due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control (i.e. bad weather if outdoor visit, ill roommate if indoor visit, etc.).



Visits may occur **only** if the visitor and the person supported:

1. have not been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is being tested for COVID-19 with results pending;
2. have not been instructed to self-isolate;
3. have not travelled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days; and
4. do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e. cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache).

The visitor must complete the screening questionnaire by using the QR code or by visiting www.voimb.ca/screeningtool before coming to the home, and these criteria apply to all visits (indoor and outdoor).

Indoor Visits

1. **A maximum of one (1) designated visitor can be inside the home at a time.**
2. The visitor must wear the same PPE that staff in the home are required to wear. At a minimum this means a surgical mask and eye shield. You may provide the visitor with PPE from VOI's stock if they do not have their own.

Outdoor Visits

1. **One (1) or both of a person supported's designated visitors can visit outside the facility at any time, the total number of visitors outside must not be more than two (2) at any time.**
2. The visitor must wear a mask but if outdoors, a cloth mask is acceptable. You may provide the visitor with a mask from VOI's stock if they do not have their own. Visitors are not required to wear eye protection outside.

Because the risk of transmitting the virus is less likely in outdoor settings, CLDS encourages visits at the home happen outside whenever possible. They also encourage using other ways to communicate such as video or phone calls, where appropriate.



Visitation to a Department with COVID-19 Case(s) or Suspected Case(s)

1. Visits will be suspended, unless critical to the supported person's wellbeing. Check with your Facility Manager or Director if you have questions about critical visits.
2. Indoor and outdoor visits may be considered in special circumstances on a case by case basis with the appropriate PPE and precautions in place.

Out of Home Visitation or Gathering

1. People supported can visit the home (indoor and outdoor) of **one (1) natural support that lives alone** if the person supported regularly interacts with them and are the **only authorized visitor to the home**. If a support staff is required, the staff is also allowed to attend the home.
2. People supported can attend a gathering of up to ten (10) people at an outdoor public place (other than at the home of natural support). Needed support staff are included in the count.

Managing Risk

Because the people we support are part of the vulnerable population, their health remains an important consideration. Facility Managers or staff should seek medical advice before arranging visits at homes with support persons who may be at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or at a higher risk of serious illness, if you need confirmation on whether someone is at a higher risk you can contact your Director.

Protecting the health and well-being of the people we support and their staff remains one of our top priorities. Regular reassessment by reviewing information shared by public health officials further to the impact and evaluation of the need for adjusted visitor restrictions will be ongoing.

Procedure for Residential Visitation to People Supported Homes (SIL)

1. A person supported **who lives alone** may have **one (1) person with whom they regularly interact with visit their home (indoor and outdoor)**. If a support staff is required, they are allowed to attend the home at the same time as the visitor.