

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Visitation at Correctional and Detention Centers

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation recently announced the reopening for limited in-person visiting on April 10, 2021. This guidance is for correctional and detention facilities reopening to limited in-person visitation. Visitations by friends, families, legal representatives, and service providers can resume at a limited capacity if the infection control practices noted in this document are in place. However, COVID-19 disease transmission trends will be closely monitored, and visitation guidelines are subject to change if there is evidence of a new or significant facility outbreak (particularly one that may be linked to a visitor) or an increased trend in community transmission of COVID-19.

Written facility specific visitation protocols should be created based on these guidelines for each individual facility.

### A. POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT INCARCERATED/DETAINED PERSONS AND STAFF HEALTH

- All visits must be scheduled in advance
- Video visits should take preference over in-person visits
- Visitation limited to visitors who show proof they are fully vaccinated<sup>i</sup>, visitors who show proof they have a negative COVID-19 viral test (swab or saliva) result taken no longer than 3 days before the visit<sup>ii</sup>, or proof of previous COVID-19 infection (previous positive viral test result) and completion of isolation within the last 90 days<sup>iii</sup>. Review endnotes for a description of what is acceptable as proof for each. Potential visitors can be tested by their healthcare provider or at a Los Angeles County COVID-19 testing location near them at <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing>.
- All visitors permitted inside the facility must:
  - Be [screened](#) for a fever and symptoms of COVID-19 on entry to the facility using the same criteria as for staff. Screening must include a check-in concerning 1) symptoms of fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, and a new loss of taste or smell and 2) whether the individual is currently under isolation or quarantine orders.
  - Negative Screen (Cleared). If the person has no symptom(s) and no contact with a known COVID-19 case in the last 10 days, they can be cleared to enter and participate for that day. An individual with contact to a known case BUT who is fully vaccinated can also be cleared to enter.
  - Positive Screen (Not Cleared):
    - If the person was not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and had contact with a known COVID-19 case in the last 10 days or is currently under quarantine orders, they may not enter and must be sent home immediately to quarantine at home. Provide them with the quarantine instructions found at [LAC | DPH | COVID-19 Isolation \(Patient Information\) \(lacounty.gov\)](#)
    - If the person is showing any of the symptoms noted above or is currently under isolation orders, they may not enter and must be sent home immediately to isolate at home. Provide them with the isolation instructions found at [LAC | DPH | COVID-19 Isolation - Patient Information \(lacounty.gov\)](#).
  - Must wear cloth face coverings for the entire duration of their visit and to keep at least 6 feet of distance from staff and incarcerated/detained person whenever feasible.
  - Perform hand hygiene before and after the visit at a minimum.
  - Practice physical distancing the entire time while in the facility.

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Visitation at Correctional and Detention Centers

- Staff should monitor the visit to make sure infection control guidelines are followed (safe distancing, face coverings, no physical contact) to assure a safe visitation.
- Be advised to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 14 days after exiting the facility and, if they test positive for COVID-19 to self-isolate at home, contact their healthcare provider, and immediately notify the facility of the date(s) they were in the facility, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations they visited. The facility should immediately screen the individuals of reported contact and take all necessary actions for infection control precautions based on findings.
- All incarcerated/detained persons must:
  - Be [screened](#) for a fever and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to visitations.
  - Must not be permitted to receive visitation until they complete their [quarantine](#) or [isolation](#) protocol. Alternative methods of treatment provision such as videoconferencing should be offered to incarcerated/detained person in isolation or quarantine whenever possible. If an in-person visit cannot be avoided the visitor or service provider must always maintain 6 feet of distance from the individual in isolation or quarantine and wear a surgical mask.
  - Practice physical distancing from visitors and other incarcerated/detained persons the entire time during the visitation.
  - Must wear cloth face coverings for the entire duration of their visit and to keep at least 6 feet of distance from staff and visitors whenever feasible
  - Perform hand hygiene before and after the visit at a minimum.

### B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet (preferably more) should be maintained at all times. This necessitates prohibiting any form of physical contact.
  - Placing tables at least eight feet apart and assuring six feet between seats, removing or taping seats to reduce occupancy, placing markings on floors to assure distancing, and arranging seating in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact. Use of partitions is encouraged to further prevent spread but should not be considered a substitute for reducing occupancy and maintaining physical distancing.
- Where possible, use outdoor areas that are created and equipped with shade covers and seating that enables visitors to maintain a 6-foot physical distance at all time from others.
- Correctional and detention facilities should provide visitors with instructions and guidelines prior to the date of visitation.
- The number of visitors must be limited based on space availability in accordance with COVID-19 safety modifications. Facilities have the ability to further limit the numbers of visitors per visit, based on their ability to ensure compliance with the safety modifications. It is recommended that visitors per visit be from the same household, unless all show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, to limit the risk of transmission among the visitors.
- If transportation is required during the visit, capacity should be reduced to 25% capacity of the vehicle and ensure ventilation is increased with the windows open.

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Visitation at Correctional and Detention Centers

- One or more staff should be designated at each stage of visitation for incarcerated/detained persons and visitors (visitor registration, waiting area, during visitation, post visitation) to ensure adherence to mask mandate, social distancing, and infection control standards.

### C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Hand hygiene should be performed before and after the visit at minimum.
- [Environmental cleaning](#) should be performed on any surfaces used/touched by incarcerated/detained person, visitor, or staff. Facility should follow [Department of Public Health guidelines](#) for cleaning protocols. Use an EPA approved disinfectant.

### D. MEASURES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PUBLIC

- High touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Signage at each entrance and throughout the facility should be used to inform visitors to:
  - Stay home if they are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or are under orders to be under quarantine or isolation.
  - Maintain physical distancing of six feet from others and not to engage in any physical contact.
  - Wash their hands often or use sanitizer upon entry into the facility.
  - Wear a face covering at all times while at the facility.

---

<sup>i</sup> People are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two (2) weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two (2) weeks or more after they have received a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen). The following are acceptable as proof of full vaccination: a photo identification, not required for minors, and a paper or digital copy of their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (White Card), a copy of their California state immunization registry (CAIR) vaccine record from a primary care provider or directly from CAIR, or a Healthvana vaccination record, which includes the name of person vaccinated, type of COVID-19 vaccination provided, and date last dose was administered. Visitors can visit LAC DPH [vaccination record](#) website for more information.

<sup>ii</sup> The following are acceptable as proof of a negative test result from an COVID-19 antigen or PCR test taken/collected within three days before: a photo identification and a paper copy or digital copy of their negative test result on their phone. As an example of the 3-day testing window, if a visit is scheduled for 1pm on a Friday, the visitor(s) must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was collected any time on the prior Tuesday or after. Results of the test must be available prior to entry into the facility. Test results will remain with the visitor and will not be collected or documented by staff.

<sup>iii</sup> The following is acceptable as proof of previous COVID-19 infection (previous positive viral test result) and completion of isolation within the last 90 days: documentation is similar, but it will be copy of a positive COVID-19 antigen or PCR test taken within the last 90 days, but not within the last 10 days. Visitors must have completed their [isolation requirement](#) prior to visit.