

# COVID-19

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

**Recent Update** (Highlighted in yellow):

**2/15/2022:** Updated proof of entry requirements for visitors at adult facilities.

This guidance is for correctional and detention facilities reopening to in-person visitation. Visitations by friends, families, legal representatives, and service providers can resume if the infection control practices noted in this document are in place and facility follows [Los Angeles County Public Health Guidance for correctional and detention facilities](#). 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 THE HEALTH OF INCARCERATED/DETAINED PERSONS AND STAFF

- All visits **should** be scheduled in advance
- Video visits should take preference over in-person visits **during facility outbreaks**
- Visitation limited to visitors who:
  - Show proof that you are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines. You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccine when you are fully vaccinated and have received your booster dose, when eligible. See [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Table](#) for timing of boosters.<sup>1</sup>, OR
  - Visitors who show proof they have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result taken within 2 days prior to entry (if the visit is at 1pm on a Friday, the person can visit with a negative PCR test that was taken any time on the prior Wednesday), OR
  - Visitors who show proof a negative FDA-approved COVID-19 Antigen test result taken within 1 day prior to entry (if the visit is at 1pm on a Friday, the person can visit with a negative antigen test that was taken any time on the prior Thursday or on the day of the visit prior to entry), OR
  - Proof of previous COVID-19 infection (previous positive viral test result) and completion of isolation within the last 90 days.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See definition for **'When am I up to date on my COVID-19 guidance'** for when a person is considered fully vaccinated and booster eligible. 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 <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/vaccinationrecords/> information.

<sup>2</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.

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- If a visitor is not prepared with the above proof upon arrival to the facility, the facility may provide an FDA-approved point-of-care COVID-19 antigen test to be taken by the visitor that is confirmed negative prior to entry to their entry.

**Note:** Potential visitors can be tested by their healthcare provider or find a COVID-19 testing site near them in Los Angeles County at <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing> or in other areas of California at <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested>.

- All approved visitors permitted inside the facility must:
  - Visitors must self-screen for symptoms prior to visit. Those exhibiting symptoms or under current isolation or quarantine orders will not be able to visit.
  - Wear a well-fitting mask that filters well for 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.
  - Staff should monitor the visit to make sure infection control guidelines are followed (safe distancing, face masks, no physical contact) to assure a safe visitation.
  - Be advised to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 10 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 medical isolation protocol. Alternative methods of visitation such as videoconferencing should be offered to incarcerated/detained person in isolation or quarantine. 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 face masks 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

- When feasible, physical distancing of at least 6 feet (preferably more) should be maintained to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

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- 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 ensure ventilation is increased with the windows open.
- 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 **mask** at all times while at the facility.