



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Corrections

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Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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Nevada Department of Corrections Protocols for COVID-19 Visitation Plan

Introduction:

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC and Department) is mindful of the impact that COVID-19 has had on the relationships between offenders, their families, and friends. While the 14-month suspension of visiting was necessary to limit the spread of the virus into our facilities, NDOC recognizes the emotional toll it has taken on the immediate family members, children, and friends of the offenders.

We recognize the importance of the support each family provides to incarcerated individuals. Not only does that connection help offenders cope with their current situation, and also promotes a strengthened healthy family cohesion and leads offenders to a more successful transition back into the community. Visitation helps maintain that core connection to the most important fabric of our society – the family.

After a 30 day Visitation trial, when an Institution/Facility reaches a 75% vaccination rate, it will move to Phase 2. Once an Institution/Facility reaches an 80% vaccination rate, allowing for up to 10 days to review data and ensure low levels of COVID-19 positive cases, it will move to Phase 3, which removes the restrictions.

Now that sufficient safety protocols can be enacted, NDOC is pleased to be able to resume visitation beginning May 1, 2021, with the following protocols.

Notification of Changes

These protocols will be comprehensively reevaluated at least every 30 days in order to publish cohesive updates before the start of each calendar month.

Notifications will be posted within each housing unit advising the offender population of visiting room operations. Family members and friends may access the NDOC website for visiting notifications and updates.

- Warden's Bulletin
- Offender Channel
- Department Website
- Social Media

All of the following protocols are subject to changes, modifications, and limitations as determined by:

- Recommendations of the National Centers for Disease Control
- Guidance of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- Guidance of the Department Medical Director
- The physical design, operational capacity, and staffing strength at each facility as determined by the Warden.

Phase-1

Phase-1 Start of Visiting with COVID-19 Restrictions May 1, 2021

Visitation Scheduling

- All visits will be scheduled by appointment only. In the event the electronic platform experiences technical difficulties, you may contact the institution visiting officer at the number provided on the NDOC website.
- Inmates will be allowed visits once every 2 weeks or once a month (determined by the facility administration).
- Maximum of two (2) visitors per inmate.
- Children must be at least 5-years-old to visit (a birth certificate is required).
- Visitors may only visit one session per day.
- Visits will be limited to 2 hours (no exceptions).
- Inmates on medical isolation or quarantine are prohibited from in-person visitation.
- Visitors are required to arrive 45 minutes prior to their visit.
- On occasion, visitation may be canceled. Visitors are encouraged to call the day before their scheduled visit to verify visiting has not been canceled.
- Visiting sessions are subject to cancellation without notice based on the safety and security needs of the institution.
- Inmates must wear an N95 mask throughout the duration of the visit.
- All visitors must meet the following criteria: 1) wear a soft mask for the entirety of the visit, and 2) must be 5-years of age or older.

Visiting Times: Visiting times and capacity will vary by institution. Visitors should check with the particular institution they want to visit for specific dates and times.

Phase-1 (Continued)

- Tables will be doubled up to allow for social distancing between inmates and visitors.
- The maximum visitor capacity per session = 40; the maximum inmate capacity per session = 20.

Cleaning & Disinfection Practices

- Sanitation protocols will continue between each visitation session using an approved disinfectant as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.
- An Electrostatic Sprayer will be used to disperse disinfectant after each visiting session.
- Sanitizing station(s) will be available in visitation areas.

Pre-Screening Process

- Prior to entry and to ensure enough time for the pre-screening process, visitors will be required to check in at least 45 minutes prior to their scheduled visiting time. Visitors arriving less than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled visiting time will NOT be permitted to visit.
- All inmates must wear an N95 face mask at all times during the visit. All visitors (including children) will be required to wear a simple cloth face mask at all times while on institutional property. Face shields will be permitted only if worn with a face mask and if they do not present a safety or security risk to the institution. Visitors unable to wear a face mask will be denied entry. Face masks must be properly worn, covering the nose, mouth, and chin.
- The pre-screening process includes a COVID-19 assessment in accordance with current NDOC medical directives which are as follows:
 - NDOC medical staff will screen all visitors prior to entry into the institution.
 - Complete the Health Questionnaire, all questions must have an affirmation of “No” prior to entry.
 - Any visitors who exhibit flu-like or concerning symptoms will be denied entry.
 - Administration of a BinaxNOW 15 minute rapid test. Test results must be negative or entry will be denied.
- Visitors will be directed to a designated area immediately after the COVID-19 rapid test is administered to wait and then return to the institution or facility visiting check-in desk, or designated waiting area indicated by NDOC staff to await test results. Visitors waiting for their results will maintain established social distancing separation and stand in designated waiting areas and/or marked areas until called by NDOC staff. Designated

Phase-1 (Continued)

areas are subject to change based on facility plan, physical plant, and/or inclement weather.

- Only those visitors testing negative will be allowed to proceed into the facility for their scheduled visit.
- All inmates and visitors must have a NEGATIVE BinaxNow rapid COVID-19 test prior to their scheduled visit. Any visitor or inmate refusing to be tested or complete any of the pre-screening processes, or displaying any flu-like symptoms will be denied visitation.

During Visitation

- No physical contact will be permitted at any time before, during, or at the end of each visiting session.
- Social distancing will require visitors to remain seated at their designated table at all times with no physical contact during the visit.
- Visitors and/or children who become unmanageable, disruptive, or fail to comply with safety protocols will have their visit terminated.
- Clear partitions will be assigned to every table separating the visitor(s) from the offender. This is subject to change based on social-distancing guidance from the Nevada Department of Corrections Medical Director or the CDC.
- Visitors and offenders at assigned tables will be separated by at least 6 feet from each other. Visitors and offenders at a single table will be separated from each other by an acrylic barrier during the entire visit.
- Bathroom facilities will not be available in the visiting room, visitors requesting to utilize the restroom will be escorted by NDOC staff to the institution or facility lobby. Based on staffing and/or visiting session start/end times, visitors may not be permitted to re-enter the visiting room.
- Vending machines will not be available during visiting sessions.
- Children's play areas, toys, games, etc., will remain unavailable.
- All visiting rules in accordance with Administrative Regulation 719, "Inmate Visitation" must be adhered to.

Phase-2

Phase-2 Visiting with Reduced COVID Restrictions TBD

Visitation Scheduling

- All visits will be scheduled by appointment.
- *Where visiting was limited to once each month, a restriction reduction to once every 2 weeks will be considered; where limited to once every 2 weeks, a restriction reduction to once every week will be considered as determined by facility administration.*
- Maximum of **three (3)** visitors per inmate.
- Children must be at least **2-years-old** to visit (a birth certificate is required).
- Visitors may only visit one session per day.
- Visits will be limited to 2 hours (no exceptions).
- Inmates on medical isolation or quarantine are prohibited from in-person visitation.
- Visitors are required to arrive 45 minutes prior to their visit.
- Visitors are encouraged to call the day before their scheduled visit to verify visitation has not been canceled.
- Visiting sessions are subject to cancellation without notice based on the safety and security needs of the institution.

Visiting Times: Visiting times and capacity will vary by institution. Visitors should check with the particular institution they want to visit for specific dates and times.

- Tables will be doubled up to allow for social distancing between inmates and visitors.
- The maximum visitor capacity per session = 60; the maximum inmate capacity per session = 20

Phase-2 (Continued)

Cleaning & Disinfection Practices

- Sanitation protocols will continue between each visitation session using an approved disinfectant as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.
- The Electrostatic Sprayer will be used to disinfect the visiting room between sessions.
- Sanitizing station(s) will be available in visitation areas.

Pre-Screening Process

- Prior to entry and to ensure enough time for the pre-screening process, visitors will be required to check in at least 45 minutes prior to their scheduled visiting time. Visitors arriving less than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled visiting time will NOT be permitted to visit.
- All inmates must wear an N95 face mask at all times during the visit, and all visitors (including children) will be required to wear a simple cloth face mask at all times while on institutional grounds. Face shields will be permitted only if worn with a face mask. Visitors unable to wear face masks will be denied entry. Face masks must be properly worn, covering the nose, mouth, and chin.
- The pre-screening process includes a COVID-19 assessment in accordance with current NDOC medical directives which are as follows:
 - NDOC medical staff will screen all visitors prior to entry into the institution.
 - Complete a Health Questionnaire, all questions must have an affirmation of “No” prior to entry.
 - Any visitors who exhibit flu-like or concerning symptoms will be denied entry.
 - Administer a BinaxNOW 15 minute rapid test. Tests must be negative prior to entry.
- Visitors will be directed to a designated area immediately after the COVID-19 rapid test is administered to wait and then return to the institution or facility visiting check-in desk or designated waiting area indicated by the NDOC staff for the result of their test. Visitors waiting for their results will maintain social distancing guidelines, and stand in designated waiting areas and/or marked areas until called by NDOC staff. Designated areas are subject to change based on facility plan, physical plant, and/or inclement weather.
- Only those visitors testing negative will be allowed to proceed into the facility for their scheduled visit.

Phase-2 (Continued)

- All inmates and visitors require a NEGATIVE BinaxNow rapid COVID-19 test prior to their scheduled visit. Any visitor or inmate refusing to be tested or complete any of the pre-screening process, or displaying any flu-like symptoms will be denied visitation.

During Visitation

- No physical contact will be permitted at any time prior to, during, or at the end of each visiting session.
- Social distancing will require visitors to remain seated at their designated table at all times with no physical contact during the visit.
- Visitors and/or children who become unmanageable, disruptive or fail to comply with safety protocols will have their visit terminated.
- Clear partitions will be assigned to every table separating the visitors from the offender. This is subject to change based on social distancing guidance from the Nevada Department of Corrections Medical Director or the CDC.
- Visitors and offenders at assigned tables will be separated by at least 6 feet from each other. Visitors and offenders at a single table will be separated from each other by an acrylic barrier during the entire visit.
- Bathroom facilities *will be available in the visiting room.*
- Vending machines will not be available during visiting sessions.
- Children's play areas, toys, games, etc., will remain unavailable.
- All visiting rules in accordance with Administrative Regulation 719, "Inmate Visitation" must be adhered to.

Phase-3

Phase-3 Return to Visiting in the New Normal TBD

Visitation Scheduling

- All visits will be scheduled by appointment.
- Visitors will be allowed *to visit daily as space and schedules permit.*
- Maximum of **four (4)** visitors per inmate.
- **No minimum age requirement for the visitation of children.**
- Visitors may visit **up to 4 hours per day.**
- **If applicable,** inmates on medical isolation or quarantine are prohibited from in-person visitation.
- Visitors are required to arrive **30 minutes** prior to their visit.
- Visitors are encouraged to call the day before their planned visit to verify if visitation has not been canceled.
- Visiting sessions are subject to cancellation without notice based on the safety and security needs of the institution.

Visiting Times: Visiting times and capacity will vary by institution. Visitors should check with the particular institution they want to visit for specific dates and times.

- Maximum visitor and inmate **capacities are determined by each facility's design and maximum occupancy limit.**

Cleaning & Disinfection Practices

- **Standard cleaning and disinfection procedures before, between, and after visiting sessions will be completed in accordance with each institution's regular sanitization protocols.**

Pre-Screening Process

- Prior to entry and to ensure enough time for the pre-screening process, visitors will be required to check in at least **30 minutes** prior to their scheduled visiting time. Visitors arriving less than 30 minutes prior to their scheduled visiting time will not be permitted to visit.
- **No COVID screening or testing will be required prior to visitation. Visitors or inmates who feel ill at the time of their visit should not attend.**

During Visitation

- *In accordance with regular visiting security policy, physical contact between visitors and inmates will only be allowed briefly just before and immediately following visits. Contact will be limited to a single handshake, hug, and/or kiss.*
- Social distancing *will no longer be required.*
- Visitors and/or children who become unmanageable, disruptive or fail to comply with safety protocols will have their visit terminated.
- Clear partitions will *no longer be required.*
- Visitor *separation and acrylic barriers will no longer be required.*
- Bathroom facilities will be available in the visiting room.
- *Depending upon the reactivation of vending contracts, vending machines will be available during visiting sessions.*
- Children's play areas, toys, games, etc., *will be available.*
- All visiting rules in accordance with Administrative Regulation 719, "Inmate Visitation" will be in effect.