



Visitation with Families and Outdoor Exposure of Consumers

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of VMRC is to promote the health and safety of all the consumers, especially the vulnerable ones with underlying medical conditions and living in congregate settings.

When a consumer, living in congregate setting, is visiting friends or family members in their homes or other places for a few hours to days, VMRC is highly recommending that consumers will do 14-day isolation upon return to the care home. Please refer to isolation guide with title “DDS Expectations for Consumers Coming back from Hospital or ER or Other placements.”

Similar will be expected when a consumer is working as an essential employee, and lives in congregate setting. The consumer may go to the living area provided that a mask is worn at all times, and he/she is more than 6 feet away from other consumers.

When a consumer, living in congregate setting, is going to an office visit to a primary care provider, doctor visit, dentist visit or laboratory visit, there is a different expectation. Because these settings are controlled environment in such as there is temperature check prior to entry, individuals are required to wear mask at all times inside the building, and chairs are arranged physically distanced with easy access to soap and water or hand sanitizer. If the consumer is able to abide by those safety precautions at all times, and consumer is able to shower and change clothes immediately when he/she returns to care home, the consumer does not have to do 14-day isolation. Clothes should be washed immediately and separately.

Similarly, when a consumer goes out to the community for example, grocery shopping, the consumer does not have to do 14-day isolation when the following conditions are met:

- the care home staff was able to ensure that the consumer had mask on at all times, covering the nose and mouth
- practiced more than 6 feet physical distancing
- avoided touching face
- washed hands frequently or used hand sanitizer
- showered immediately and changed clothes upon return to care home
- clothes washed immediately and separately

Further guidance on the document title “In-person Meeting Outdoors / Outside the Home During COVID-19.”