



COVID-19 Weekly Update



Friday, April 2, 2021

ICF/ID and RCF/PMI Facility Updates:

As more members of our communities receive the COVID vaccine and the number of active COVID cases declines, we're pleased to communicate Imagine the Possibilities' intent to support individuals served in making educated decisions about community activities and visits with family and friends. Imagine has been working hard to follow Center for Disease Control (CDC), Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommendations related to the COVID-19 virus.

We are now encouraging individuals served at our ICF/ID and RCF/PMI facilities to function in their normal daily routine without any real restrictions (attend doctor appointments, spend time with family and friends in appropriate settings, enjoy normal spring community events and activities). We also wanted to take this opportunity to share the latest update to Imagine's COVID plan related to visitors in the homes.

If you have any questions or concerns related to these changes be sure to reach out to your contact at Imagine for further discussion.

Below is the information provided to the individuals served and our employees. Make note what may be asked of you prior to entering a home supported by Imagine:

Visitors / Visits Away from the Facility

When visitors enter the building, they will need to complete a visitor screening form that includes instructions to follow while in the home. Tracking of all visits will be recorded, including the date, time of the visit, and Individuals-served involved in the interaction for follow up purposes.

Instruction for visitors will include:

- Frequent hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, use of PPE, and respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette precautions (especially in common areas).

- Suggestions to refrain from physical contact with Individuals-served and others while in the facility. For example, practice social distances with no handshaking or hugging, and remaining six feet apart.
- Indoor visitation should be limited if any new or suspected cases have occurred during the previous 14 days - Consult with COO or member of the COVID team for direction.
- If possible (e.g., pending design of building), creating dedicated visiting areas (e.g., “clean rooms”) near the entrance to the facility where Individuals-served can meet with visitors in a sanitized environment. Facilities should disinfect rooms after each individual/visitor meeting. Attempt to keep the number of visitors at one time to a minimum. No visitors are allowed in shared bedrooms.
- Reminders to visitors and any Individuals-served who enter the facility to monitor for signs and symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 14 days after exiting the facility. If symptoms occur, advise them to immediately notify the facility, the Individuals-served they were in contact with, and the locations within the facility visited. Facilities should immediately screen the Individuals-served of reported contact, and take all necessary actions based on findings.
- Discourage visitors who are at high risk such as older adults or those with underlying medical conditions.

Any person with a fever, other symptoms of COVID-19, or is unable to demonstrate proper use of infection control techniques, should be restricted from entry.

Screening Criteria for entry:

- Presence of fever (>100.4)
- Signs and/or symptoms of respiratory infection (cough, shortness of breath)
- Travel on a cruise ship with in the last 14 days
- Traveled to a country with a level 3-wide spread ongoing transmission warning within the last 14 days
- Had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a person who has test positive for COVID-19 in the period of 2 days before symptom onset, for 10 days or 2 days before positive test, for 10 days.

Consideration to visitor limitations may be considered if county positivity rate exceeds 10%.

Visits away from the facility will require screening prior to returning to the facility, to verify the individuals served exposure (close contact) to a person who has tested positive or is being tested for COVID 19, as well as the presence of respiratory symptoms while away from the facility.

Guidance above came directly from the document produced by CMS titled Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Safety and Oversight Group REF: QSO-21-14-ICF/IID & PRTF Dated 2/10/21.

Again, we look forward to returning to some sense of normal while still being cautious and aware of the potential for spread of the virus. Employees working will continue to follow all precautions related to wearing personal protective equipment and also following cleaning schedules as recommended by Imagine’s governing bodies.