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Governor

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**RESOLUTION OF THE
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF NEW MEXICO MEDICAL ADVISORY TEAM**

May 6, 2022

**Resolution Providing Recommended Guidance for
Visitor Screening at Healthcare Facilities and in Other Healthcare Settings**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a statement that indicates that compliance with its infection control Conditions of Participation requires hospitals to adhere to nationally recognized standards and practices;

WHEREAS, the current nationally recognized standards are promulgated by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) which contain guidance for routine infection prevention and control practices during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Medical Advisory Team and the New Mexico Department of Health Division of Health Improvement recognize the need to have continuity of recommended screening procedures at all New Mexico healthcare settings and licensed health care facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New Mexico Medical Advisory Team and the New Mexico Department of Health Division of Health Improvement that New Mexico licensed health care facilities and healthcare settings ("Healthcare Settings") follow the below recommendations of the CDC with respect to screening:

Screening Recommendations:

- Each Healthcare Setting should establish a local process to identify anyone attempting to enter a facility or setting with COVID-19 symptoms or exposure and prevent the person's entry to protect patients and Healthcare Personnel in the Healthcare Setting.
- Options may include (but are not limited to):
 - Implementing an electronic monitoring system in which individuals can self-report any of the above before entering the Healthcare Setting.
 - Individual screening on arrival at the Healthcare Setting performed by Healthcare Personnel.
 - Passive screening via signage at limited entry points, which can include signage near the Healthcare Setting entrance.
- All visitors may be required to wear a CDC-approved face covering in the Healthcare Setting.
- Healthcare Settings will provide CDC-approved face coverings for visitors when needed.

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- Entries to Healthcare Settings may be limited to ensure screening at every entry point of entry.
- Entry screening process must be defined by the Healthcare Setting in a policy.
- Visitor screening should include the following questions:
 - Positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days
 - Exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the last ten days
 - Active COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, dyspnea, etc.)
- Screening should be compliant with the ADA, and CMS literacy and language regulations and organization specific policy.
- Each facility and setting policy and process will be included in surveying conducted by the Division of Health Improvement under regulations on infection control and/or resident rights starting June 1, 2022.

Definitions:

Healthcare settings refers to places where healthcare is delivered and includes, but is not limited to, acute care facilities, long-term acute-care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, home healthcare, vehicles where healthcare is delivered (e.g., mobile clinics), and outpatient facilities, such as dialysis centers, physician offices, dental offices, and others.

Healthcare Personnel (HCP): HCP refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. HCP include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, home healthcare personnel, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, dental healthcare personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel).

To the extent the CDC adopts or recommends amended guidance for the screening of visitors at Healthcare Settings, Healthcare Settings shall be advised to follow any such recommended guidance.

THIS 6th DAY OF MAY 2022

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David Scrase

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