

COVID-19 screening at NSW healthcare facilities

Last updated: 25 November 2021

- This screening advice is for visitors entering a healthcare facility. This advice does not apply to any person seeking urgent medical attention.
- All visitors entering a NSW Health hospital or health service must be screened at entry.

COVID-19 healthcare screening

A visitor is regarded as someone who is a family member, carer or friend who is visiting, accompanying, or providing support to someone who is a current patient in the healthcare facility.

These questions are to be asked by the screening officer prior to a visitor being permitted entry to a healthcare facility.

1. Have you checked in using the QR code?
2. Can you provide evidence of full COVID-19 vaccination?
3. Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19?
4. Have you been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?
5. Have you returned from overseas in the past 14 days?

Generally, a visitor who has returned from overseas in the last 14 days should not be permitted to enter a health care facility. Some exemptions are permitted including:

- in exceptional circumstances such as end-of-life, an application for an exemption will need to be made in consultation with the LHD or SHN as to whether a visit will be permitted; or
- a fully vaccinated person who has been overseas in the past 14 days should be able to enter the health care facility if they have evidence of a negative PCR result from a Day 7 test.

If a person identifies as a close contact of a COVID-19 case or has not been fully vaccinated, they should generally not be permitted to enter.

In the case where a visitor has previously had COVID-19 and is fully recovered, but has not yet been able to be vaccinated, a letter or clearance certificate from NSW Health may be used to support an exemption in that regard. The visitor can be asked to produce this evidence on request.

Visitors must agree to always wear a mask correctly during the visit and follow any other advice from health care staff.

No more than two (2) visitors at a time are permitted and visitors must be aged 12 years or older.

LHDs and SHNs may apply a risk assessment to allow a local exemption to these criteria based on compassionate grounds and on a case-by-case basis.