



Mississippi Department of Corrections



Executive Directive
Number 68
By Order of
Burl Cain, Commissioner

Effective May 10, 2021

This Temporary Visitation Policy ("Policy") is being issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health concerns. This Policy is being issued after consultation with the State Health Officer on those issues, which affect and are protective of public health. The provisions of this Policy are in addition to and amend MDOC's existing policies and SOPs [31-03, 31-03-01]. If a conflict exists between this Policy and existing policies, the provisions contained herein shall control. The number of allowed visits, frequency and other restrictions or requirements may be changed by the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Institutions in his or their discretion. Where changes relate to public health and infectious disease control, such decisions shall be made after consultation with the State Health Officer. This Policy shall remain in effect until otherwise modified, extended, or cancelled. The Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Institutions may terminate or alter this Policy in his or their sole discretion. Visitation in all state correctional facilities will resume approximately, but not less than, two weeks after each facility has received and administered the second dose of its series of vaccine. Visitation will occur under the following temporary conditions and precautions, subject to change:

- Visitation will be limited to two visitors per session. Each offender will be allowed one visitation per calendar month unless the offender has lost his or her visitation privileges as a result of disciplinary actions. Children under 18 will not be allowed to participate in visitation at this time. Each day, visitation will be from 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. Visitors are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes before visitation times.
- Visitation will be by appointment only and may be canceled with little notice if dictated by health and safety concerns. Visitation must be arranged through the individual facility and visitors should check prior to traveling to the facility to ensure that scheduled visitation times have not been canceled or altered. For information on scheduling visitation and other visitation related issues, see the MDOC website at <https://www.mdoc.ms.gov/Inmate-Info/Pages/Visitation.aspx>.
- Visitation will not be permitted if the facility is experiencing a significant outbreak of COVID-19, if there are specific health concerns, or if the facility is quarantined.
- In addition to standard security procedures, all visitors will be screened for temperature checks before entry. For entry into the facility, visitors must have a temperature that is less than 100 degrees. Masks or cloth face coverings will be worn at all times by screeners, offenders, and visitors. Additionally, all visitors will be asked orally or in writing the following questions:
 1. Within the last 24 hours, have you had any of following symptoms:
 - Fever, feverish, or chills?
 - Cough?
 - Difficulty breathing?
 - New loss of smell or taste?

2. In the last 14 days, have you been in “close contact” to a confirmed case of COVID-19? [“Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period -- For example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes--.]

Anyone who has a fever of 100 degrees or more or who answered yes to any of the above questions will be denied entry.

- All visitors must wear a mask or cloth face covering while on MDOC premises up to the time that the individual visit begins. Offenders must wear a face mask up to the time an individual visit begins. Masks may not have offensive language, pictures, or symbols. Gaiters, bandanas, and masks with a one-way valve are not permitted. Masks will be provided if needed. Both visitors and offenders must sanitize their hands upon entering and before leaving the visitation area. Visitors and Offenders must wear a mask or cloth face covering when they are entering or exiting the facility to begin or end an individual visit.
- Offenders who are in medical isolation, quarantine, who have any symptoms of COVID-19, or who have not been fully inoculated will not be allowed to participate in visitation. Based on recommendations from the State Health Officer, visitation will initially be limited to those offenders who have been fully inoculated. A person is deemed to be fully inoculated two weeks after that person receives the final shot in his or her vaccination series. The requirement for full inoculation will be reviewed from time to time based on public health considerations in conjunction with the State Health Officer.
- Visitors and Offenders will be allowed reasonable touching in accordance with standard MDOC visitation policy. However, neither visitors nor offenders should engage in contact with any person not a part to their individual visit.
- Visitation will take place outdoors, if possible and weather permitting, or in the designated visitation sites. Social distancing must be maintained between visiting groups at all times by maintaining a distance of 6 feet between visiting groups. If indoors, visitation areas will be limited to 75% of capacity or as otherwise required to maintain social distancing of 6 feet.
- No outside food, beverages, or photos will be allowed. All visitation areas will be thoroughly sanitized between each visitation session.
- Legal visitation is not covered by this Policy, and legal visitation shall continue under existing policy and protocols.
- Offender escorted or emergency leave shall continue to be governed by MDOC SOP Number 27-06-01 and Miss. Code. Ann. § 47-5-173. In determining whether to grant such leave, the Commissioner or designee may consider the overall COVID-19 conditions in the state as well as any facts that apply to each individual application for leave.


Burl Cain, Commissioner


Date