[Name of facility]

**Sample Policy for Calculating County Positivity Rates Using MDH Data**

Date

**Purpose**

[Name of facility] is guided by the Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) Indoor Visitation and Activities guidance (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/ltcvisit.pdf>) for identifying COVID-19 county positivity rates (the number of positive tests divided by the total number of tests performed, found on the MDH webpage.

**Policy**

[Name of staff position & back up position] is responsible for checking and determining the county positivity rate for the facility’s county and surrounding counties, if needed, every week.

[Name of facility] will use the following MDH criteria for allowing indoor, non-essential, visitors:

* Low (<5%) = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond essential caregiver and compassionate care visits).
* Medium (5% – 10%) = Visitation should occur according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies (beyond essential caregiver and compassionate care visits).
* High (>10%) = Visitation should only occur for essential caregiver and compassionate care situations, according to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and facility policies.

**Procedure**

1. Once a week, on xxx *(\*\*identify day of week)*, [Name of facility] will check the MDH webpage, [COVID-19 Weekly Report](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/index.html#wtrmap1) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/index.html#wtrmap1>)
2. Select the “Weekly Test Rate by County of Residence” drop down arrow
3. Find the “Downloadable data file: Weekly Percent of Tests Positive by County of Residence (CSV)” file
4. Click on link to download file and open the file, if it doesn’t immediately open.
5. Find the data for [your county]
6. Add the numbers of the two most recent weeks in our county and divide by two to determine the 14-day county positivity rate.
7. [Name of facility] may also monitor the positivity rates of [identify adjacent counties], as needed.