

## Guidelines for Spiritual Care Provision during COVID-19

Guidelines for Spiritual Care Provision during COVID-19	Level 1 SHA Policy Directive	Level 2 Compassionate Care Reasons Only	Level 3 End of Life Reasons Only
<b>Spiritual Care Provider Definition</b>	Spiritual Care Providers will include elders, healers, denominational chaplains, community clergy, and lay leaders from all faiths and/or worldviews.		
<b>COVID 19 Infection Prevention Orientation and Commitment</b>	All Spiritual Care Providers going into facilities must complete online orientation in Infection Prevention and Control for Spiritual Care, and will comply with entry screening, continuous masking and physical distancing.		
<b>Guidelines for Spiritual Care Provision/Visitation in Facilities</b>	Providers may provide care for multiple patients, maintaining physical distancing with continuous masking.		
	Phone/video support for spiritual care should be encouraged and supported in an ongoing way.		
	Spiritual Care Providers may enter healthcare facilities to provide care to patients and residents who have requested Provider care, to offer care to members of their respective faith communities, or to those whose care teams refer for care.	Spiritual Care Providers may enter healthcare facilities to provide care to patients and residents who have requested Provider care, to offer care to members of their respective faith communities, or to those whose care teams refer for care.	Spiritual Care Providers may enter healthcare facilities to provide care to patients and residents for End of Life reasons only.
<b>Guidelines for Spiritual Gatherings for Ritual and Ceremony in Health Facilities</b>	A service or ceremony for single patient and their designated visitor(s) is not subject to time limits.		
	Up to 3 Providers may enter healthcare facilities to provide a ritual or ceremony (60 minutes or less) in a designated worship area with the following conditions: - only patients and residents, staff and designated family supports/visitors may attend. Additional people may not enter the facility for the service. - 2 meters physical distancing must be maintained. - Continuous masking is required except for moments around ritual eating. - Will follow current numbers for private gatherings in designated worship areas, where distancing can be maintained. - Patients on any precautions are not permitted to attend services but can request Level 2 spiritual care. Leaders must screen patients and residents. - Leaders are also bound by the guidelines for Places of Worship.	At the request of a patient and with the support of the care team, one Spiritual Care Practitioner may facilitate a ritual or ceremony for a patient/resident and designated visitor(s) in a designated worship area on in the patient/resident room if distancing can be accommodated.	A Spiritual Care Practitioner may enter healthcare facilities to provide ritual or ceremony for patients and residents in their rooms only for End of Life reasons.
<b>Spiritual Care and Cohorting</b>	Spiritual Care Providers must follow cohorting between long-term care facilities, except for end of life calls or where exemptions have been granted. Providers may provide care or facilitate rituals or ceremonies locations on a three week rotation between care homes and/or acute care sites to allow for access to spiritual care.		
	Any cohorting of patients or residents within a facility must also be adhered to with respect to services or ceremonies.		