



For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

The Arc of Massachusetts  
217 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453-2710  
781.891.6270  
arcmass@arcmass.org  
www.arcmass.org

**Achieve with us.**

Scott Borchardt  
President

Leo V. Sarkissian  
Executive Director

The Arc of Massachusetts  
COVID Surge Update  
Jan10, 2022 **Clarified Version on 5 days isolation**

### Advocacy

The Arc has been advocating for:

- Rapid test distribution at no cost to providers, families, and individuals.
- Testing when supplies are available for day and in home supports.
- We also would like to see staff caregivers obtain tests for home if infected at work
- Rapid test distribution through providers (family support, IL centers, other entities)
- Reimburse organizations for purchase of tests before availability
- Weekly updates on the congregate care dashboard on numbers infected with this recent surge (presently posted monthly)

We appreciate communication from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services regarding our requests and information in this update.

### Update

1. State supply of tests is limited but HHS stated it would provide a limited number of test kits for residential locations. Presently states still are competing for purchase of tests.
2. For providers, the rule remains NOT to use both Color (PCR) and Rapid test. If done agency will not be reimbursed and BinaxNOW tests should not be used for this purpose. *HHS will consider specific cases or situations* due to outbreak.
3. Providers can shift between PCR tests (COLOR) and Rapid tests as situation warrants. No longer have to stick with one type of test.
4. Biden administration is expected to announce funding for tests for all individuals on Jan 15.
5. Staff (and others) who test positive should isolate for 5 days. All should be following the general isolation and quarantine guidance so workers so they CAN return on 6<sup>th</sup> day with a mask if they have no symptoms. A test is not required at that point. Given lack of supply of tests, HHS guidance does not require that tests be given after days of isolation.
6. Those exposed to someone with COVID infection but do NOT test positive and have been boosted (or completed primary series of J & J within 2 mos, OR Pfizer/Moderna within 6 months), should wear a mask for 10 days and if possible, test for virus on day 5. If you have symptoms isolate as in #5.
7. Those exposed who are not meeting timelines in #6 or are unvaccinated, should isolate for 5 days, and mask for 10 days. Test on day 5 if possible. If symptoms develop, get a test and stay home.

Guidance states that staff should follow general isolation and quarantine protocols. **PLEASE NOTE: As of December 30, 2021, all non-health care congregate care settings/residential**

---

The Arc in Massachusetts Includes the Following Local Chapters:

Berkshire County • Bristol County • Brockton Area • CCI/Lower Cape • Center of Hope Foundation • Charles River Center  
Communitas, Inc. • Greater Haverhill-Newburyport • Incompass • Lifeworks, Inc. • Minute Man AHS • Northeast  
Opportunities for Inclusion • The Arc of Opportunity • Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod • South Shore • The United Arc

programs and shelters should adhere to the [Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for the General Public](#). **This recently updated guidance includes:** group homes, residential treatment programs, community-based acute residential treatment programs, and clinical stabilization service programs funded, operated, licensed, and/or regulated by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Youth Services (DYS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS), the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC). **Additionally, this guidance applies to** emergency shelter programs, including individual and family homeless shelters, domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, Veterans' shelters, including those funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development, and approved private special education schools which offer residential services and are approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-the-general-public#about-covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine->