

Updated COVID 19 Guidance (effective July 1, 2022)

The Executive Office for Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has released updated COVID-19 guidance for congregate care and day programs, effective July 1, 2022.

These are the changes that will affect you:

Masking: Masking will be *optional* for staff and persons served of congregate care settings regardless of vaccination status, except in specific circumstances outlined in the guidance. Settings for *optional* masking include the following:

- Residential Services
- Family and In-Home Support Services
- Day and Employment Services
- Administration
- Facilities

Settings that require staff to continue to wear a mask include the following:

- Adult Family Care
- Therapeutic Day Habilitation, located at the Paul D. Merritt Center
- Transportation: Masks will still be required on Human Service Transportation for both drivers and riders.

These two services are funded by Mass Health and typically service our most vulnerable populations.

Screening: Screening for visitors, staff, and residents may be *self-directed*. This means you will only be asked screening questions or take temperatures only when there is potential exposure or symptoms present.

Persons served attending day programs will continue to be screened daily (Including temperatures) and provide attestation prior to entering day program.

Given that we will no longer have complete close contact data, if a staff member reports a positive test result, staff will be directed to complete and COVID positive exposure form using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/Nk23CMTaLAfSLua37>

We will no longer require daily check-ins using iPads or QR Codes.

Surveillance Testing: Testing will be available when staff or persons served show symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19. Rapid antigen tests or PCR will be provided to both staff and persons served.

Quarantine:

Close Contact/Exposed: There is no quarantine requirement for **vaccinated** staff and persons served who have been exposed to or in close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19.

Staff and persons served who are **unvaccinated** and have been exposed to or in close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19, will continue to quarantine for 5 days after exposure, returning to work on Day 6 (if unable to wear a mask- person served would return on Day 11).

Positive COVID 19 cases: Staff and person served will be required to isolate from others for the first 5 days following a positive COVID 19 test result. If staff/ person served remains asymptomatic, you are able to return back to work/day program on Day 6 if a mask can be worn and person remains symptom free.

If symptoms arise or person served is not able to wear a mask, you will remain in isolation until Day 10 returning on Day 11.

If there is a COVID 19 positive case then there will be testing of **all close contacts** of the positive COVID-19 individual, **including any staff and residents, regardless of vaccination status**, as soon as possible and every **three days** until the testing results in no new positive COVID-19 individuals for 14 days.

Updated guidance documents are posted online here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-public-health-guidance-and-directives>