

## **Updated COVID -19 Guidance for IDD Services**

The Office of Developmental Programs released Announcement 21-048 on June 23, 2021 which made the following previous announcements obsolete:

Announcement 20-066

Announcement 20-068

Announcement 20-088

Announcement 20-101

The obsolete announcements are replaced with guidance from the PA Department of Health (PA DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an Emergency Temporary Standard to help protect healthcare workers from contracting COVID-19. The emergency temporary standards could remain in place for up to 6 months.

This updated guidance for CSG is a consolidation of information from OSHA, CDC and DOH. We believe it will best protect our employees and individuals in service through infection control procedures and mitigation of the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

According to the CDC, direct service providers include “direct support professionals who provide a wide variety of home and community based health related services that may include personal care, activities of daily living, access to health services and more.”

- 1)** CSG will continue screening procedures in homes and day programs for anyone who is not a CSG employee. CSG employees should

continue to monitor themselves for symptoms. Non-CSG staff include vendors, visitors, licensing representatives, support coordinators etc.

- Take temperatures of each person entering the work location or for in-home services, ask the individual and/or family member to take their temperature prior to service delivery.
- Ask if the person has COVID symptoms, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or if they have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19.
- Any visitor with a COVID diagnosis, fever or COVID-19 symptoms may not enter the home.
- Visitors may be asked their vaccination status in order to determine if masking is required. If individuals are present masking is required. (See #2 below on face masks.)
- Advise visitors that maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask can help reduce the spread of the virus even if fully vaccinated.

## **2) Daily mitigation strategies**

- Face masks must be worn at all times when working in a home or day program setting regardless of the employee's vaccination status, except for when individuals are not present and/or staff are in a private work space. DSPs or others performing direct support tasks are considered healthcare personnel for purposes of PA DOH COVID-19 guidance.
- Follow standard universal precautions-- anytime staff may come into close contact with bodily fluids while assisting an individual, staff should don the necessary PPE (facemask or eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown).
- Frequently disinfect high touch surface areas and equipment.

- All staff and individuals should frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer.
- Frequently disinfect transportation vehicles, both company vans and personal vehicles.
- Frequently disinfect bathrooms.

### 3) Exposure/close contact

\_\_\_\_\_ • Employees/individuals present in the home 48 hrs prior to the start of the positive employee/individual's symptoms are considered "potentially exposed."

- Any other persons visiting the home should be considered "potentially exposed" if they were within 6 feet of others in the home, for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes within a 24 hour period.

- To determine the potentially exposed group, program directors and managers will use the [contact tracing form](#) and review staff schedules to determine who was at the home in the last 48 hours.

- Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic participants in close contact with someone with COVID can continue to attend their day program but be required to quarantine in their residential setting.

#### a) Staff exposure

- Staff exposed to someone positive for COVID-19 who are **not** considered fully vaccinated, or if they have not had COVID in the prior 3 months, must quarantine at home AND be excluded from work for 14 days if they are symptomatic.

- Staff exposed to someone positive for COVID-19 who are **not** fully vaccinated or who have had COVID in the previous 3 months **and** are asymptomatic, may continue to work while wearing full PPE.
- Staff exposed to someone positive for COVID-19, are asymptomatic AND fully vaccinated may continue to work **without** wearing a gown or face mask/goggles. Masks must be worn and gloves used when required per universal precautions.
- If test results are negative for symptomatic employees, the employee can return to work under the following conditions:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND Improvement in symptoms; AND
  - At least ten (10) days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

b) Client/Individual exposure- CSG's Residential Homes are considered Healthcare settings.

- Fully vaccinated individuals AND not fully vaccinated individuals: Must quarantine following prolonged close contact/exposure (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) to someone positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered: do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. If they do become symptomatic, they must quarantine.

- Options to reduce the 14-day quarantine:
  - **Quarantine can end after Day 10** without testing if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
  - **Quarantine can end after Day 7** if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen must be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation. In order to discontinue quarantine after Day 7, specimens must be collected on or after Day 5.

#### 4) Actions to take when staff/individuals have tested positive

- When an employee/individual tests positive at a particular home, the entire home is quarantined.
- Staff must wear full PPE (N95 if fitted, or KN95 mask, gloves, gown, and eye protection) at all times until the quarantine has ended. Reference the document titled ["Full PPE Guidelines."](#)
- PPE supplies should be obtained from the closest PPE hub location. Submit a help desk ticket to the purchasing department indicating what PPE supplies were removed and from which hub location.
- Employees and individuals considered to have been "potentially exposed" will be tested weekly until the testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 for at least 14 days from the most recent positive result. **If staff opt to have their testing completed elsewhere (PCP, CVS, etc.) they must provide their test results to CSG.**
- Any persons who develop symptoms should be tested as soon as possible.
- All individuals should remain in the home, no visitors, or outings to the community, including staying home from the day program.

- No communal meals during the quarantine period. Encouraged the use of plastic and paper-ware utensils.

**5.** If ALL employees in a workplace are fully vaccinated, ALL non-employees are screened prior to entry, and staff or individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID are not present, then PPE and physical distancing requirements do not apply if healthcare services are not provided in the setting. The most likely settings in CSG where this criteria applies are day programs or in the individuals' private homes.

**6.** In community based services if the staff, individual and individual's family are fully vaccinated, and all agree, staff may choose not to wear a mask as long as other infection control procedures are followed.

For community based services and when community participation support (CPS) services are provided in community settings, state and local guidelines for physical distancing and masking for the applicable community setting should be followed.

**7.** In CSG vehicles, everyone should wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.