



Woodstock and District Developmental Services

Memo: **RE: COVID-19 UPDATES**

Date: **December 6/2023**

The Health and Safety Committee in consultation with SWPH would like to update you on some changes to the current COVID-19 Policies.

Temporarily the following will be re-implemented to ensure that we are keeping everybody safe and, in the hopes, that people's Christmas plans will not be negatively impacted by the current increase in positive COVID-19 cases.

These changes will be reviewed on a regular basis and updates made as necessary to ensure the health and safety of the people supported, staff and families.

*Unless otherwise indicated these instructions apply to all staff, volunteers and students. Although it is mandatory for this group to wear masks, it is not mandatory for the people we support but will not be discourage if the person chooses to do so.

1. Social distancing

- Whenever possible physical distancing of 6 feet should be adhered to indoors and outdoors.

2. Masking outdoors

- Masks do not need to be worn when outside, if physical distancing of 6 feet can be maintained.

3. Masking indoors

- Medical masks will need to be worn at all times indoors; anytime you have a roof over your head, unless the home is in outbreak.
- If people supported develop symptoms, staff will be required to wear an N95 mask at all times.
**Note: staff do not have to wear a mask when they have their breaks but must be at least 6 feet from others when unmasked during the break as per policy.

4. Supporting a person with Symptoms and/or a person who is positive for COVID-19

- Eye protection must be worn by all staff whenever a person supported develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.

- Eye protection must be worn at all times when providing personal care (bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, etc.) as staff are not able to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet.
- PPE includes gloves, gowns and N95 masks as an extra layer of protection. These are all located in the PPE kit kept at each location and are to be worn by all staff on every shift along with your eye protection. Supporting a person with symptoms also includes enhanced cleaning practices - using 1000ppm bleach/ water solutions on high touch surfaces excluding food surfaces like kitchen countertops, which remains 100ppm. Respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene continue to be important preventative measures as well.
- *Note: The person who has symptoms or tests positive will be encouraged to isolate in their room – if they will not do so, all people in the home will be encouraged to wear masks, if tolerated, when in common areas.

5. Visitors and Essential Visitors Masking

- At this point in time, Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear medical masks when in common areas of a home to ensure everyone's safety recognizing that some people are more vulnerable than others.
- Visitors will not be allowed when a home is in outbreak.

6. Meetings/ Training

- If you can maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more, masks can be removed and stored in paper bag. If 6 feet cannot be maintained, masks must be worn.

7. Vans

- Staff will be required to wear a surgical mask.
- Practice good hand hygiene when entering and exiting the van.
- Have windows open, but not all of the way down, to create fresh air flow.
- External circulation on, do not have internal circulation set.
- Keep a record of who was together in the van for contact tracing, the record should include people supported first and last name. This is to be documented on the Mileage form.
- Sanitize the van after each use and removing all garbage.

8. Passive Screening/ Self-Monitoring for Symptoms

- All staff, visitors and essential visitors seeking entry to the location are required to complete passive screening regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status. If they are symptomatic they will not be allowed to access the location.

9. Rapid Antigen Testing

- All staff are required to complete rapid antigen testing when symptomatic. If their RAT is negative, staff should continue to test before coming in on each shift until symptoms are gone. If RAT is

positive, staff will not need to complete any more tests. All testing results positive or negative should be recorded on the COVID APP.

- Unvaccinated staff will continue to complete RAT twice a week and record their results on the COVID APP. The Health and Safety Committee supports the information sent from SWPH that unvaccinated staff are considered high risk to contract and transmit COVID-19.

Below is the latest message sent out by Southwestern Public Health.

Our goal is to keep you well and enjoying the people, places and activities that you love. Covid-19 vaccination remains one of the best ways to protect yourself from serious illness and hospitalization. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are high risk. And who is highest risk? People who are pregnant

- People who aren't vaccinated
- People over the age of 65
- Young children under 5
- People with chronic conditions or who are immune-compromised

10. Staff who test positive for COVID-19

- Staff who test positive on a rapid antigen test, will be required to call the On-Call Supervisor to notify them of their results. They will also need to text the On-Call Supervisor a picture of their positive test results. Staff will be required to stay home until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours for respiratory and 48 hours for gastral, without medications. When they return to work they will be required to wear a N95 mask for 14 days from symptom onset.
- If a staff tests positive on a RAT and are asymptomatic, they are able to still work but will be required to wear an N95 mask for 14 days from the date of the positive RAT.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and dedication to the health and safety of the people we support, their families and everybody else at WDDS.

Sincerely,

Your Health and Safety Committee



Woodstock and District Developmental Services

*'A community where **everybody** belongs'*