

COVID POLICY UPDATES

Date: 2/22/2023

From: Maryann Hyatt, President

Re: Updated Work Expectations and Quarantine Guidelines

Mask update:

Masks are no longer required for staff and individuals in BCARC programs, except in the following circumstances:

- Staff working in a program where an individual is positive (quarantined program) **MUST** wear a KN95 mask at all times;
- Staff **MAY BE** required to wear masks while working with specific individuals if medically indicated;
- Staff are required to wear masks in vehicles while transporting individuals. Individuals should wear masks in vehicles if able.
- Staff must follow masking protocols post exposure/Covid positive as outlined below.

Staff are welcome to wear masks in the programs. Both surgical and KN95 masks will be made available to staff working in BCARC programs. Other PPE (face shields, gowns) will be available upon request.

Updates regarding Covid exposures/positive test result/symptoms and return from leave:

If you, a staff member you supervise, or an individual you support tests positive for Covid-19, call the Covid pager to notify at 413-770-0000 (please CALL—do not text)

The current guidelines for staff and individuals are as follows:

Staff who have been exposed to a positive:

- Should continue to work so long as they remain asymptomatic
- **Must wear KN95** (Full PPE is not required but will be available in all programs) until a negative test result is obtained on day 6 or later
- Must test with rapid antigen test on day 6 or later (should test **at program site** with BCARC testing materials)
- Must test using a rapid test at any point if symptoms develop

Individuals who have been exposed to a positive:

- **Must wear a mask**—high quality masks preferred if able to tolerate (KN95/N95 BEST; surgical mask BETTER; cloth mask ACCEPTABLE)

- Must test with rapid antigen test on day 6 or later (can test at program site with BCARC testing materials, or through healthcare provider)
- May continue to attend day program/access the community
- Must test using rapid test if symptoms develop

The process for COVID Positive staff to return to work, and positive individuals to return to day program and the community:

- Stay home for 5 days and isolate
- After 5 days have passed AND
- Symptoms have substantially improved, including being fever-free, for 24 hours AND
- If able to wear a mask including in the household

Individuals may return to program/community activities on day 6 if they meet the above criteria, but must continue to wear a mask (any type) until day 11. *Any individual who is unable to wear a mask must remain out of BCARC programming and should isolate for a full 10 days.*

Staff may return to work on day 6 but must wear a **kn95** mask through day 10.

There is no need to RAPID test before returning to work / program if following the above guidelines.

If you suspect you/someone you support has received a **false positive test result, contact PCP for guidance on additional testing. Documentation of negative test will be required to return to work/program before day 6, even if asymptomatic.*

Symptomatic staff and individuals:

- Must test using rapid test when symptoms begin
- **If staff are negative- staff may continue to work but must wear a KN95 mask until symptoms have resolved**
- If individuals are negative, they must be 24 hours symptom-free before returning to community/program

Staff living with a confirmed Covid positive household member:

- If staff have been **living with a CONFIRMED COVID** positive, **staff may work** but must test on day 6 with rapid test. Staff must wear KN95 mask until negative test.

Staff returning from leave:

- Staff are no longer required to complete an attestation when returning to work

This guidance is subject to update at any time at the discretion of BCARC Director of Nursing or a designee.