

BCArc Respiratory Virus Guidance: March 3, 2024

On March 1, 2024, the CDC released new guidance regarding respiratory viruses, **including Covid-19, influenza, and RSV**. At this time, no Covid-specific requirements are in place.

Masks are NO LONGER REQUIRED in BCArc programs, except in the circumstances outlined below:

BCArc's updated guidance is based upon the presence of symptoms of respiratory illness. Testing may be required by nursing on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of BCArc nursing.

Symptoms OTHER THAN fever:

Any person with new symptoms of a respiratory virus (cough, runny nose, sore throat, etc.) should either remain home, or wear a well-fitting mask at all times while they are in any BCArc program, or in a vehicle with BCArc-supported individuals.

Individuals who cannot or will not wear a mask must remain out of program/work until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.

Symptoms that INCLUDE fever:

Any person (staff or individual) who has respiratory symptoms and a fever greater than 100 degrees must remain out of work until they are fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication.

Positive test result or physician-diagnosed respiratory illness: Any individual or staff who is diagnosed with or tests positive for Covid-19, influenza, RSV, or any respiratory virus must remain out of work/program for 5 days. Upon return, must wear a kn95 mask at all times for an additional 5 days. Any individuals unable to wear a mask should not return to the community until they have been fever-free without medication for 5 days. ***In the event of a positive test or conclusive diagnosis, please notify the Director of Nursing at 413-770-0001. Contact tracing of exposures is no longer required.***