



Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2022 – PAHAN – 663 – 10-04-Upd Update: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic, excerpt.

This guidance has been updated based on currently available information about COVID-19 and the current situation in Pennsylvania. Updates were made to reflect the high levels of vaccine-induced and infection-induced immunity and the availability of effective treatments and prevention tools. It applies to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, unless otherwise indicated.

Vaccination: Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, you are protected best from COVID-19 when you stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations, including recommended boosters. Four COVID-19 vaccines are approved and/or authorized in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen.

Boosters: The updated (bivalent) boosters are called "bivalent" because they protect against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 and the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5. Previous boosters are called "monovalent" because they were designed to protect against the original virus that causes COVID-19.

You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines if you have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for you by the CDC.

Required Routine Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Practices During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Facility Access: Everyone entering the facility, regardless of their vaccination status, must follow the recommended actions to prevent transmission to others if they experience any of the 3 criteria below.

1. Tested Positive in the past 10 days. Do NOT enter the facility.

- Healthcare quarantine is different than community quarantine. Visitors must also follow healthcare quarantine.

2. Any Symptoms of COVID-19: Do NOT enter the facility. Report symptoms to the RN Manager

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

3. Close Contact (Visitors) or Higher-Risk Exposure (Employees) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 10 days: Do NOT enter the facility. Report exposure to the Infection Preventionist.

Source Control: Source control refers to use of respirators (KN95/N965) or well-fitting surgical masks to cover a person's mouth and nose to prevent spread of respiratory secretions when they are breathing, talking, sneezing, or coughing. People, particularly those at high risk for severe illness, should wear the most protective form of source control they can that fits well and that they will wear consistently. Visitors and Employee may use a mask or respirator with higher-level protection that is not visibly soiled.

- Source control is required for everyone (Visitors, Residents and Employees) in a healthcare setting when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter residents.
- Residents and their visitors when alone in the resident's room or in a designated visitation area, may choose not to wear masks and may choose to have close contact (including touch). Residents, their representatives and their visitors are advised of the increased risks of transmission during physical contact.

Hand Hygiene: People should clean their hands after being in a public place, blowing their nose, sneezing, or coughing, using the toilet, and at other key times. Perform Hand Hygiene upon entering the facility and periodically while in the facility. Wash hands with soap and water if soiled. When soap and water are not available, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub.

Physical Distance: While an outbreak investigation is occurring, facilities should limit visitor movement in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, they should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area. Also, visitors should physically distance themselves from other residents and staff, when possible.