



## **Covid-19 Policy**

**10/30/2023**

As COVID-19 and respiratory virus rates decrease in our community, we are able to safely make changes to our face mask guidelines. Masks are now optional for staff and advocates.\*This is dependent on advocate choice/preference, guardians, case-managers, and/or existing health care plans.

If community levels rise or CDC policy changes, we will change our mask policy to reflect that.

- ❖ Staff and advocates may want or need to wear a mask at any time. Please do not ask why a person is wearing a mask.
- ❖ Please keep a mask with you at all times or have quick access to one. You may be requested to wear one at random.
- ❖ Families First strongly encourages all staff and advocates to stay up to date with Covid-19 vaccination per the CDC. Get eligible boosters to help protect yourself and others against serious illness.
- ❖ Families First will no longer monitor Covid-19 vaccination for in person programming. A photo of a positive test may be required for agency billing purposes. This is if you are Covid positive, cannot work, and there are non-working hours available to bill. Please discuss with the nurse for further information.

When masks are required:

- Face masks are required for anyone who has symptoms of a respiratory virus (such as a cough, fever and sore throat) to prevent the spread of infection.
- Face masks are required if you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 for 5 days after contact until a negative test to rule out Covid-19 infection.
- Face masks are required for positive Covid-19 status per CDC guidelines for up to 5 days after isolation, if isolation has ended before the 10th day of a positive test result
- Masks are required for personal care, hospital and doctor visits and anywhere else that has a policy that requires masking or asks for masking.
- Services Coordinators will communicate directly with teams that have specific situations requiring masking.

*If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time, get tested and stay home.*

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE for COVID-19 (PCR, LAMP or antigen test) ISOLATE, and let the nurse know. This is for everyone, regardless of vaccination status and symptoms.

- Stay home and isolate for 5 days (day zero is the day you tested positive or the 1st day of symptoms).
  - If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you may end isolation IF you have a negative antigen test on day 5.
  - If you still have symptoms and testing positive, isolate until you have a negative antigen test or for 10 days.
- If you end isolation before Day 10, continue to wear a well-fitting mask, like a KN95, anytime you are around others for 5 additional days to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. This includes the people you live with.
- Inform your healthcare provider - you may be eligible for certain treatment.
- Inform any close contacts. Close contact means being within 6 feet, for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, of someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period. (2 days before symptoms and continuing until symptoms have resolved).
- **Symptoms of COVID-19 usually appear 2-14 days after exposure. They may be mild or severe.** If you test negative but have symptoms, please do not work until your symptoms have resolved.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED: (Day 0 is the day you were exposed) Regardless of vaccination status, you no longer need to quarantine if exposed.

- Test with an antigen or PCR test on day 5.
- If you develop symptoms at any time, test.
- Notify your supervisor and the agency nurse that you have been exposed.
- You should wear a high quality mask, such as a KN95, during all work times for 10 days after the exposure.

If you have any questions about the Covid-19 policy, please feel free to reach out to:

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