



HEALTH + SAFETY

— UPDATE —

OPTIONS Family of Services update regarding COVID-19: 5-1-23

To our Friends and Family:

Back in early 2020 when we first heard about the Covid-19 virus we never imagined what was ahead of us. We have now experienced the pandemic for 3 years. Through this time we have worked together to keep our persons served, staff and community as safe as possible. We took measures to mitigate the impact of the virus, but it certainly had an impact. Thankfully, the virus has evolved and we have been able to adapt in order to live our lives to the fullest. The many regulations and pre-cautions we have taken have continuously changed and as of July 2022, we have been able to have more contact with one another while still implementing measures to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible.

COVID-19 continues to be with us but we now have a “new normal”. We remain committed to the health and safety of all the individuals we support and our employees. We continue to follow the guidelines as presented by the Public Health Department and our many regulatory bodies. Many of the prior restrictions have been lifted and we are able to resume our regular day to day activities which is a welcome relief.

At this time there are no visitation restrictions at any of our homes. We do however ask that if visitors are not feeling well, that the visit be delayed in order to promote the health of all staff and persons served.

Effective April 3, 2023, the COVID-19 mask mandate for staff in long-term care (ICF-ID/H) facilities and other congregate settings was lifted. The on-going mask mandate for all staff who have not received the annual influenza vaccine will remain in effect each year from November 1 to April 30 to coincide with the “flu season.”

Current measures:

- OPTIONS Family of Services will continue to follow the direction of the local public health departments and regulatory bodies when addressing any positive COVID-19 cases and any other infectious disease.
- We continue to encourage staff and persons served to seek guidance from their health providers regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and Booster updates.
- Staff and persons served are asked to stay home and socially distance from others when they are not feeling well. Testing kits are available for those with Covid-19 symptoms.
- Visitation with family and friends is encouraged as long as everyone is feeling well.
- Community activities have resumed and are encouraged. Persons served have returned to day programs, school and work.
- Staff will continue to maintain a high standard of cleaning and disinfecting at each site. Hand washing will be encouraged and hand sanitizer and PPE will continue to be readily available.
- We continue to educate our staff and persons served on the guidelines and best practices to protect from COVID-19 transmission.
- We diligently monitor the COVID-19 situation and will continue to do so to ensure the safety of our persons served, staff and community.

We appreciate your support, patience and kindness as we navigate this challenging situation together.

Thank you!

Debbie Bertrando, CEO
OPTIONS Family of Services