

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Infection Control Procedures and Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 ODP Announcement 22-109

AUDIENCE:

All stakeholders

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this announcement is to:

1. Draw attention to the revised guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) describing how to determine if a facility should be considered a healthcare or a non-healthcare congregate setting; and
2. Provide updated guidance to providers of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) home and community-based services (HCBS) and Private Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/IDs) **for development of policies** related to infection control procedures and mitigating the spread of COVID-19; and
3. Obsolete:
 - a. ODP Announcement 21-048: Guidance for Infection Control and Mitigation for ODP Home and Community Based Services Providers
 - b. ODP Announcement 21-077: Infection Control Procedures and Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability
 - c. ODP Announcement 22-047: Provider Masking Policies for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

DISCUSSION:

On 9/23/2022 the CDC updated guidance: [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)

On 10/4/2022 DOH published Health Access Network (HAN) 663: [Updated - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)

This announcement, and the guidance contained within is intended to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, or local public health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which providers must comply.

Portions of the guidance provided by this announcement are provided in two, separate sections for providers of HCBS and ICF/ID services.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

The CDC updated guidance describing how to determine if a facility should be considered a healthcare or a non-healthcare congregative setting. While most Community Homes for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Autism licensed under Chapter 6400 will typically follow community prevention strategies based on the COVID-19 Community Levels as per CDC guidance, for settings in which individuals receive frequent and active healthcare interventions it may be more appropriate to follow guidance for healthcare settings.

Providers should establish policies and procedures accounting for population served, settings in which people are served, activities in which people engage and community transmission levels. This may necessitate coordination among providers for policy development to effectively support individuals receiving services from multiple providers, across multiple settings or locations.

These resources are provided for consideration when developing your policies. The provision of these resources should not be interpreted to be a complete or priority list.

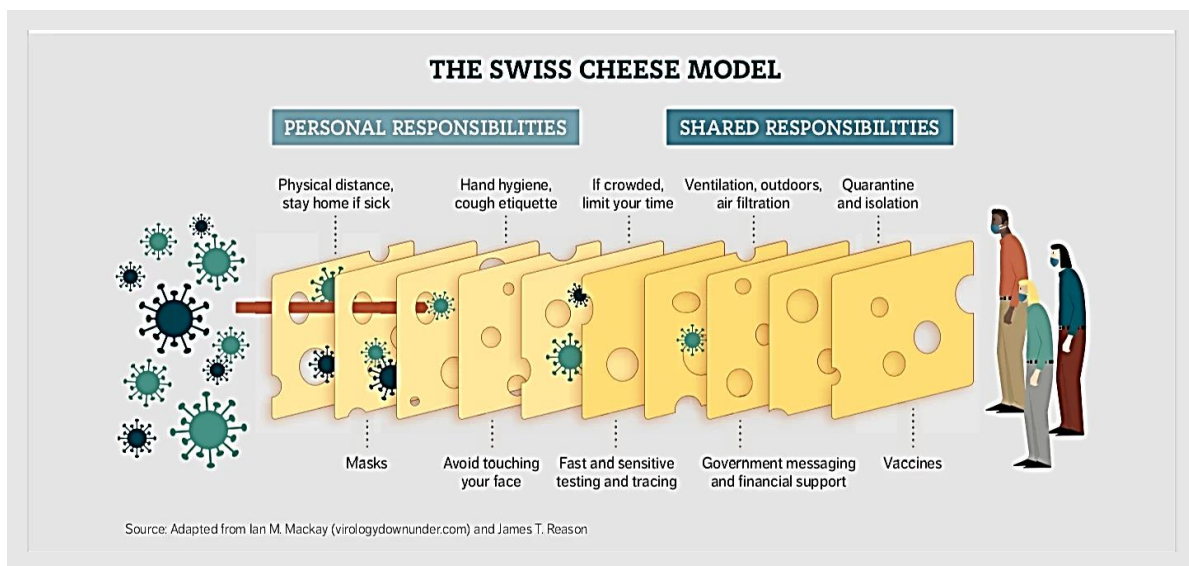
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) - Please

take note of the section “Assisted Living, Group Homes and Other Residential Care Settings (excluding nursing homes)”

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers](#)
- [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers](#)
- [Building Capacity for Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Preparedness Planning and Response](#)
- [DOH PAHAN 663](#)
- [MyODP / AID In PA / PAAutism](#)
- [The ADA and Face Mask Policies](#)

There may be instances where there are differences in the recommendations or guidance provided by agencies other than the PA DOH. In these instances, PA DOH guidance should be followed as the lead agency of the COVID-19 response for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ODP expects providers to develop a layered protection strategy for infectious diseases, to include COVID-19. A layered protection strategy can also be referred to as the [Swiss Cheese Model of risk reduction](#). The University of Iowa has also provided [video](#) on the same concept, provided here to increase accessibility.



These organizations are available to support development of policies and procedures and layered protection strategies:

- The [Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment \(LTC RISE\)](#) is available to provider organizations operating licensed community homes, licensed prevocational or adult training facilities.
- The [Health Care Quality Units \(HCQU\)](#) and [Infectious Disease \(ID\) Connect](#) are both available to all HCBS providers.
- Non-Traditional Infection Control Consulting Team (NICC) - promotes improved policies and practices in non-traditional healthcare settings by advising on infection prevention and control practices, consultation, collaboration, skill development, and education. Contact them at RA-DHNICCsupport@pa.gov

Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/IDs)

The PA DOH directs ICFs to follow guidance for healthcare facilities and is outlined in DOH HAN 663. Additionally, QSO-21- 14-ICF/IID & PRTF Revised 06.03.2021 (cms.gov) remains the most current from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at this time and a link to this resource is included in the list below.

If an individual receives services from multiple providers, those providers should communicate information related to potential COVID-19 exposure and coordinate to take appropriate action for the health and safety of individuals and staff.

These resources are provided for consideration when developing your policies. The provision of these resources should not be interpreted to be a complete or priority list.

- [QSO-21-14-ICF/IID & PRTF REVISED 06/03/2021](#)
- [QSO-22-07-ALL](#)
- [PA Health Alert Network \(PA-HAN\)](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

- [Building Capacity for Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Preparedness Planning and Response](#)

There may be instances where there are differences in the recommendations or guidance provided by agencies other than CMS. In these instances, CMS guidance should be followed.

ODP expects providers to develop a layered protection strategy for infectious diseases, to include COVID-19. The [Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment \(LTC RISE\)](#) is available for support.

Questions about this announcement may be directed to

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ATTACHMENTS:

NICCteam Flyer

NECC Team Info Sheet