

# ODP Guidance Update

ODP Announcement 21-048: [Guidance for  
Infection Control and Mitigation for ODP  
Home and Community Based Services  
Providers](#)

**As of 7/8/2021**

**Worldwide**

**Cases: 185,279,101**

**World Deaths: 4,004,923**

**Vaccine Doses: 3,346,394,767**

**United States**

**Cases: 33,774,402**

**United States Deaths: 606,272**

**Vaccine Doses: 330,583,143**

# As of 7/8/2021

## Confirmed Cases

**1,015,967**

## Probable Cases

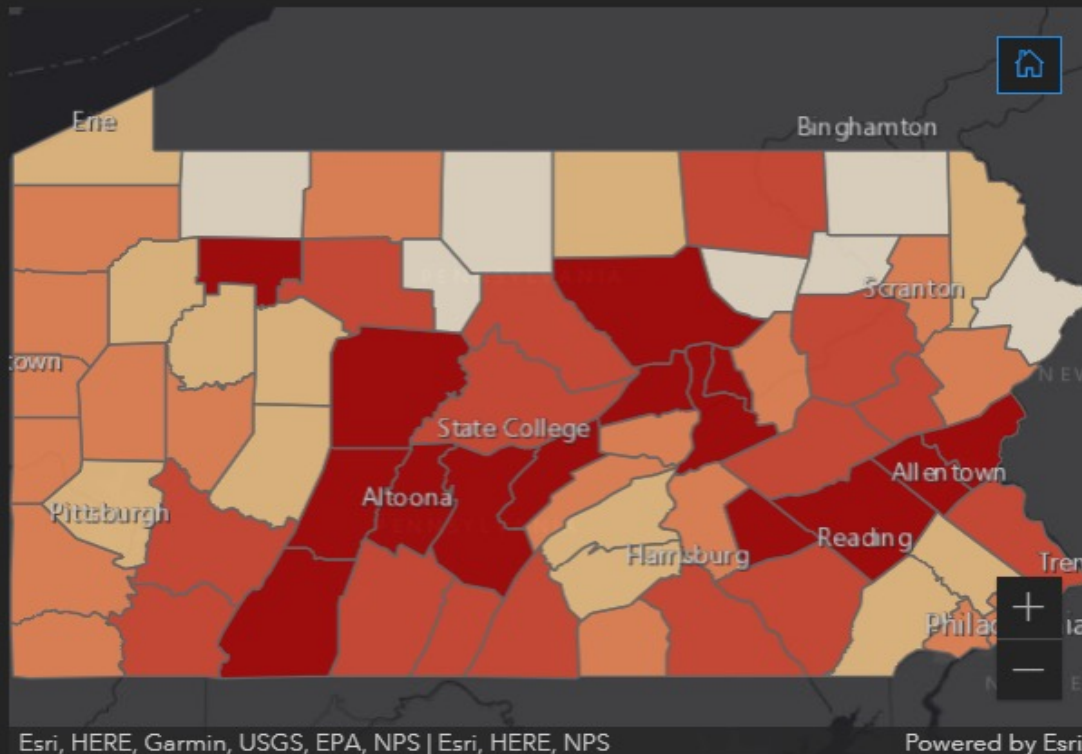
**197,576**

## Negative Tests

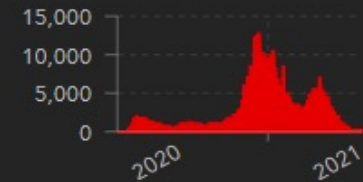
**4,800,929**

## Deaths

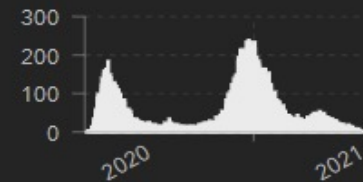
**27,729**



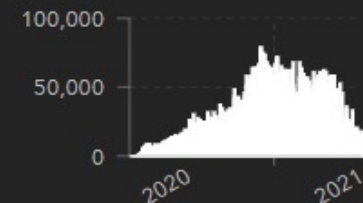
## New Cases Per Day



## Deaths by Day

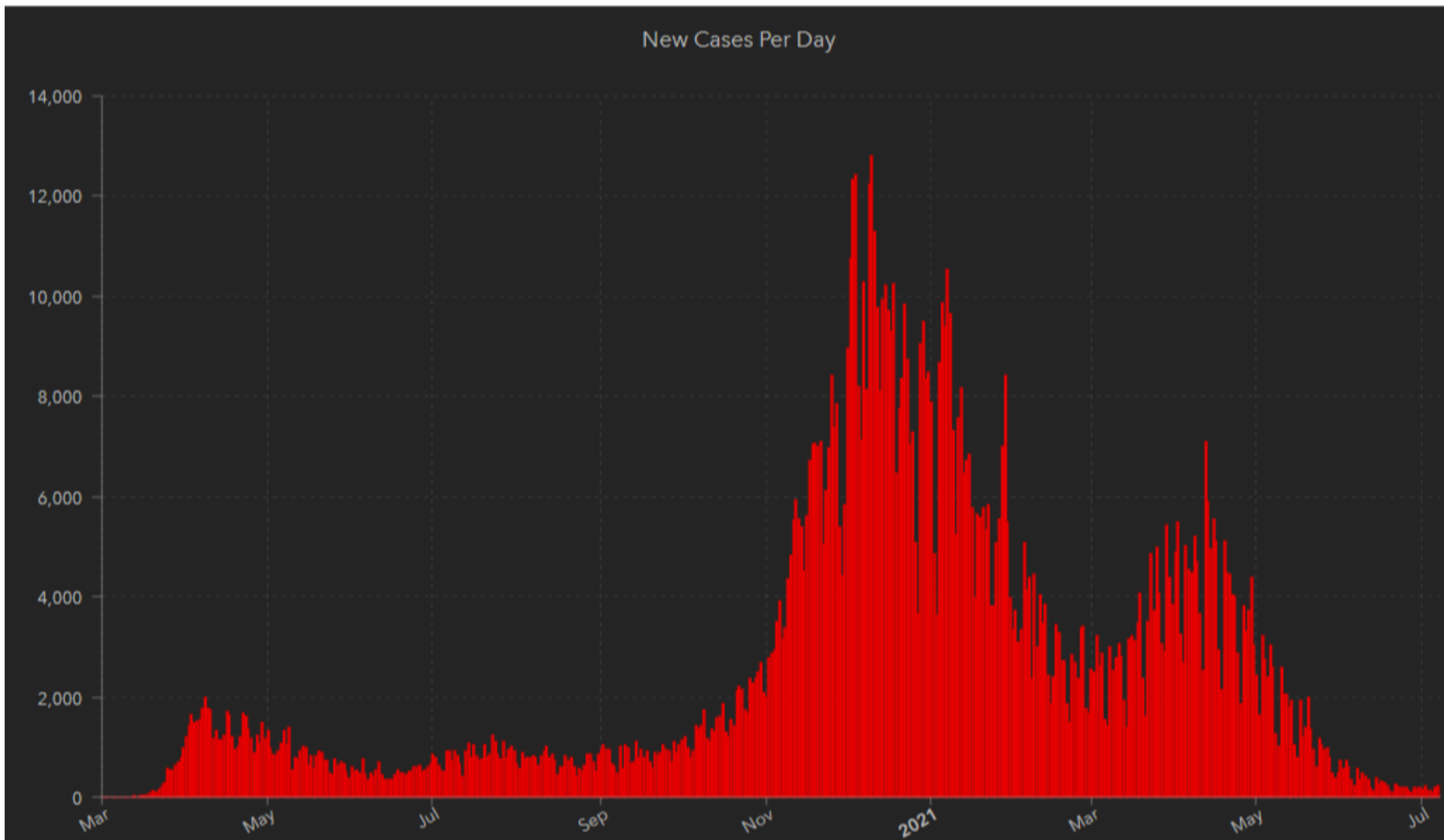


## Daily PCR Tests



\*Case Counts in the charts above include confirmed and

# As of 7/8/2021





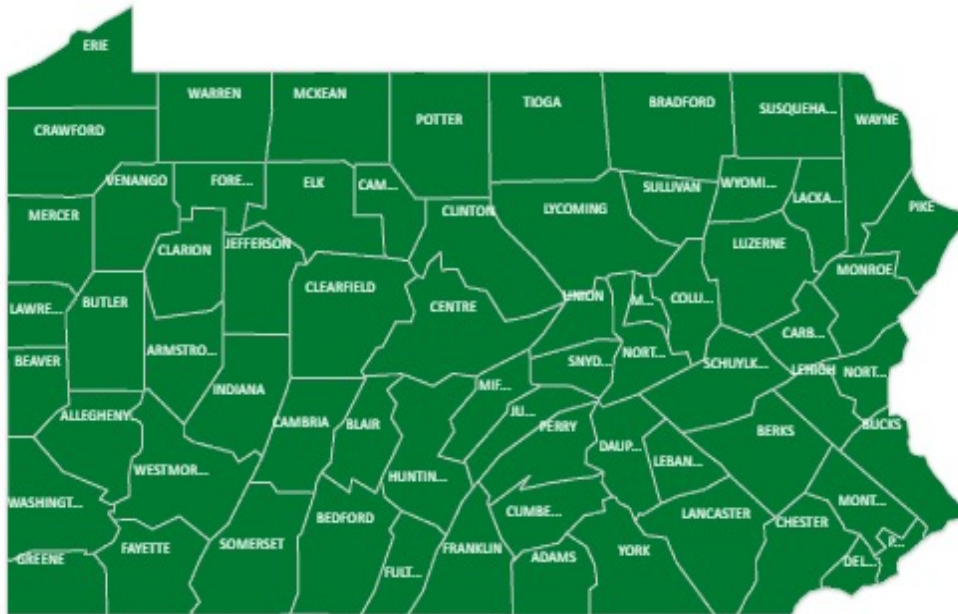
## COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard

Updated on 7/2/2021

Select a county or multiple  
counties (CTRL+click) in the  
map to filter the table.

Page Navigation

All Counties



### Pennsylvania

**-172**

Confirmed cases (diff.)

**6.7**

Incidence rate per 100,000 (curr.)

**1.1%**

PCR percent positivity (curr.)

**-70.4**

Avg. daily hospitalizations (diff.)

**-15.6**

Avg. daily ventilators (diff.)

**0.6%**

Hosp. visits due to CLI (curr.)

diff. - difference between the most recent 7-day period and the  
previous 7-day period.

curr. - most recent 7-day period

Most recent 7-day period: June 25-July 1

Previous 7-day period: June 18-June 24

For detailed county progress hover over the metric.

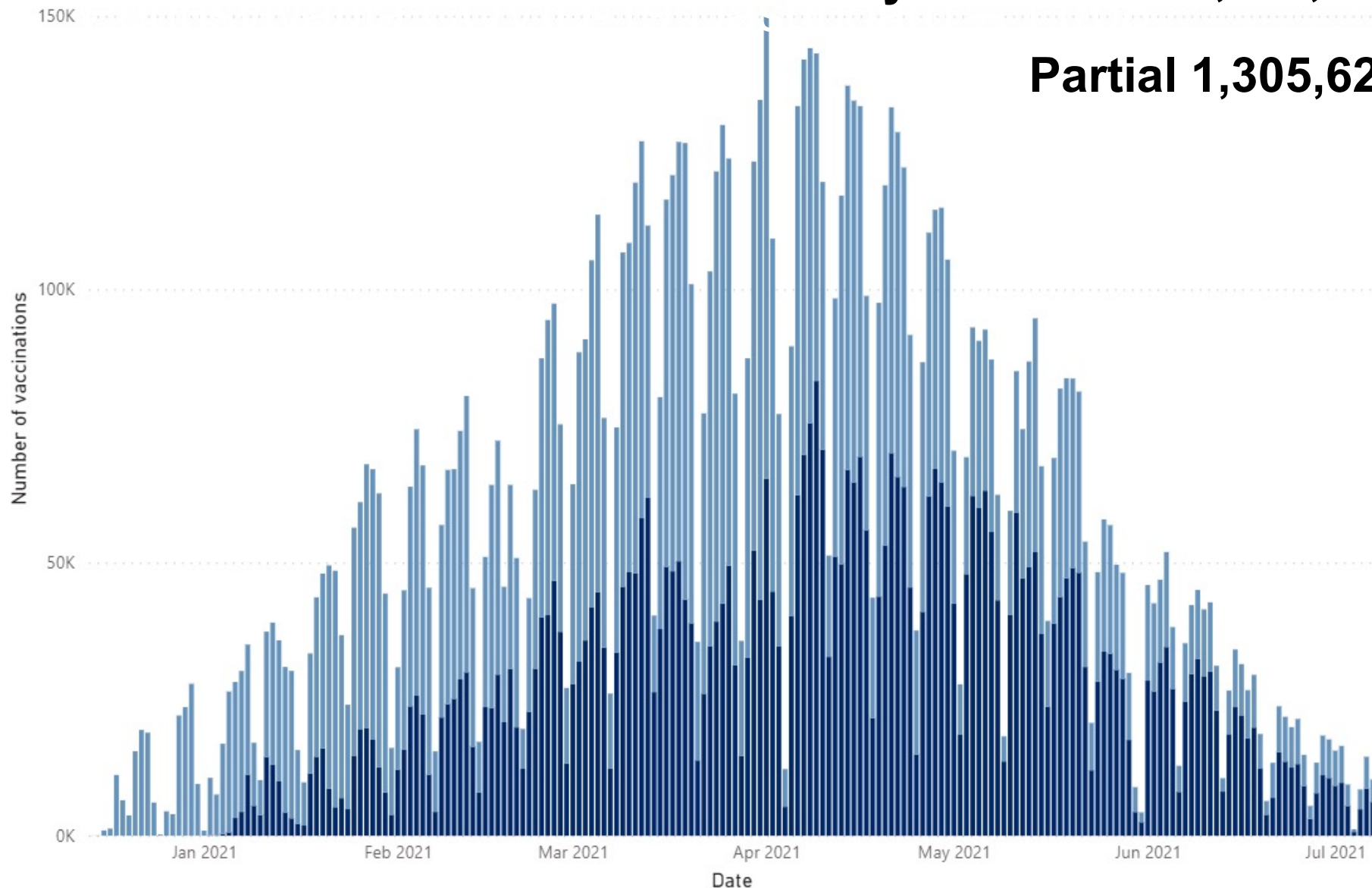
# As of 7/8/2021



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Fully vaccinated 5,472,507**

**Partial 1,305,620**



# COVID-19 Delta Variant



- Main strain in new cases in India and the United Kingdom
- In US, accounts for more than 50% of new cases, up from 6% in early June.
- mRNA vaccines appear to be effective against the Delta variant, but the vaccines may be less effective than against other strains.
- Important to have both doses of the mRNA vaccine for protection against the Delta variant.

# 5 Things To Know About the Delta Variant

- Delta is more contagious than the other virus strains
- Unvaccinated people are at risk
- Delta could lead to 'hyperlocal outbreaks.'
- There is still more to learn about Delta
- Vaccination is the best protection against Delta

[5 Things To Know About the Delta Variant > News > Yale Medicine](#)



# Guidance Evolution

- Prior to May 2021, ODP worked with PA's Department of Health to provide guidance to maintain consistency of health and safety guidance across service locations.
- The CDC updated guidance to include all ODP service location types in May 2021.
- **ODP Announcement 21-048** COVID-19 Update: Guidance for Infection Control and Mitigation for ODP Home and Community Based Services Providers
  - ODP obsoleted previous guidance and replaced with an announcement that provides context and points to appropriate CDC and DOH guidance

## Guidance Evolution (cont.)

- ODP does not anticipate developing and issuing guidance for Infection Control and Mitigation; rather
- Providers will need to become adept at implementing applicable CDC and DOH guidance

# DSPs – All Service Types

## Obsolete

- **ODP Announcement 20-088** UPDATE: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Guidance on Masks, Close Contact, Screening, and Handwashing

# DSPs – All Service Types (cont.)

## Replacing ODP Announcement 20-088

- CDC
  - Guidance for Direct Service Providers
- PA DOH
  - 568 - 4/30/21 - ADV - Core Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Long-term Care Facilities
- (CDC) Guidance for Transportation During Service Provision
  - Protect Yourself When Using Transportation

# DSPs – All Service Types (cont.)

## Guidance for Direct Service Providers

- Follow everyday prevention actions when working with clients without suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and healthcare provider guidance for standard and transmission-based precautions when providing care for clients with COVID-19.
  - When possible, keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others in the home or community setting.
  - Wear a mask when you are at work.
  - Encourage your client to wear a mask.
- If you work *in the home* of an individual with disabilities...
- If you provide services for a client *in a community-based setting*, such as a group home or day program...

## DSPs – All Service Types (cont.)

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 2021 – PAHAN – 568 –  
04-30-ADV ADVISORY: Core Infection Prevention and Control  
Measures for Long-term Care Facilities

- Additional guidance for LTCFs, which can be more conservative than what is recommended for other healthcare settings, is necessary due to the **increased risk of transmission and increased risk of severe health outcomes** related to COVID-19 in this setting.

## **DSPs – All Service Types (cont.)**

Core prevention measures for COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in Pennsylvania include:

1. Infection prevention and control program
2. Vaccinate residents and HCP against SARS-CoV-2
3. Implement universal source control and eye protection
4. Implement physical distancing measures
5. Implement source control and physical distancing options for fully vaccinated persons
6. Have a plan for visitation
7. Evaluate residents at least daily
8. Create a plan for testing residents and HCP for SARS-CoV-2
9. Create a staffing plan

# Community Homes

## Obsolete

- **ODP Announcement 20-066** UPDATE: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Guidance for Visitation in Residential Settings
- **ODP Announcement 20-068** UPDATE: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Applying Department of Health Testing and Personal Protective Equipment Guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities' Residents and Health Care Personnel to Community and Life Sharing Homes



# Community Homes (cont.)

## Replacing ODP Announcement 20-066 & ODP Announcement 20-068

- **CDC ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))**
  - Guidance for Direct Service Providers
  - Guidance for Direct Service Providers, Caregivers, Parents, and People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders
  - Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities
- **PA DOH ([www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov))**
  - 570 - 5/10/21 - UPD - Response to an Outbreak and Residents with Exposure to COVID-19 for Long-term Care Facilities
  - 569 - 4/30/21 - UPD - Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Exposure to COVID-19

# Community Homes (cont.)

## Guidance for Direct Service Providers, Caregivers, Parents, and People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders

- Special considerations may be needed for people with developmental and behavioral disorders who have limited mobility, have difficulty accessing information, require close contact with Direct Service Providers, have trouble understanding information, have difficulties with changes in routines, or have other concerns related to their disability.

## Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities

- CDC has guidance for long-term care facilities and nursing homes, assisted living facilities, retirement communities and independent living facilities, and shared or congregate housing. Many of the recommendations for COVID-19 described in these documents also apply to GHs. **GH administrators may consider implementing several strategies to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.**

# Community Homes

- Communicate to staff and residents.
- **Plan for accommodations, modifications, and assistance for GH residents.**
- Follow guidance for Direct Service Providers (DSPs).
- Screen and advise residents, staff, and essential volunteers.
- Plan for essential outings.
- Continue medical care for underlying conditions.
- Consider limiting the number of non-essential visitors.
- Manage stress and anxiety.
- Prepare for Staff Shortage.

# Community Homes

## Plan for accommodations, modifications, and assistance for GH residents.

- Social distancing and isolating within a GH may be difficult for many people with disabilities.
- Wearing [masks](#) may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues. Masks are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.
- Residents may require assistance or visual and verbal reminders for the mouth and nose with a tissue, throwing it in the trash, and washing hands afterwards.
- [Cleaning and disinfecting](#) may affect those with sensory or respiratory issues.
- [Hand washing](#) or using a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may require assistance or supervision.
- [Cleaning and disinfecting](#) may require assistance or supervision.

# Community Homes

## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 2021 – PAHAN – 570 – 05-10-UPD UPDATE: Response to an Outbreak and Residents with Exposure to COVID-19 for Long-term Care Facilities

- This guidance is **designed to supplement the core measures outlined in PA-HAN-568** with additional information to outline the facility's response to a new suspected, probable, or confirmed case of COVID19 in facility healthcare personnel (HCP) or a resident, or when a resident has been exposed to COVID19. This guidance is specific for long-term care facilities but **may also be applicable to other congregate and residential settings.**

# Community Homes

## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 2021 – PAHAN – 569 – 4-30 - UPD UPDATE: Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Exposure to COVID-19

Because of their often extensive and close contact with vulnerable individuals in healthcare settings, a conservative approach to HCP monitoring and applying work restrictions is recommended...

1. Definition of a higher-risk exposure for HCP (*Community-related exposure, Household exposure, Exposure in the healthcare setting while at work*)
2. How and when work exclusion and quarantine should occur for HCP who neither meet criteria as fully vaccinated nor have a history of COVID-19 in the prior 3 months
3. Criteria for reducing work exclusion for HCP with higher-risk exposure to mitigate staffing shortages
4. How and when work exclusion and quarantine should occur for asymptomatic HCP who meet criteria as fully vaccinated or have a history of COVID-19 in the prior 3 months
5. Testing HCP for SARS-CoV-2
6. Decision-support algorithm for response to exposed HCP

# Community Participation Supports: Day Programs

## Obsolete

- **ODP Announcement 20-101 UPDATE:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Temporary Closure of Older Adult Daily Living Centers, Structured Day Habilitation, and Licensed Facilities Where Community Participation Support is Provided Due to Community Spread or When Staff or Individuals are Diagnosed with COVID-19, and the Process for Reopening Facilities

# Community Participation Supports: Day Programs (cont.)

## Replacing ODP Announcement 20-101

- **CDC**
  - Participants at Adult Day Services Centers and their Caregivers
  - Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers, Strategies for Administrators and Staff to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19
  
- **PA DOH**
  - 569 - 4/30/21 - UPD - Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Exposure to COVID-19
  - 566 - 04/28/21 - UPD - Public Health Recommendations for People Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19



# Community Participation Supports: Day Programs (cont.)

## Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers, Strategies for Administrators and Staff to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

- Adult Day Services Centers (ADSCs) provide social or health services to community-dwelling adults aged 65 and over and adults of any age living with disability.
- Older adults and persons with disabilities are at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 including hospitalization, intensive care, and death.
- ADSC administrators and staff can help protect themselves and program participants (that is, adults attending ADSCs) from COVID-19 by **promoting and engaging in preventive behaviors that reduce spread and maintain healthy operations and environments** at ADSC facilities.

# Day Programs

- **Promote behaviors that reduce spread**
  - Encourage COVID-19 vaccination
  - Stay home when appropriate
  - Wear a mask and assist participants in wearing theirs
  - Wash your hands often, and ensure participants can wash their hands appropriately
- **Maintaining healthy environments**
  - Ventilation
  - Cleaning and disinfecting
  - Restrooms
  - Shared kitchens and dining rooms
  - Water systems
- **Maintain healthy operations**
  - Reinforce prevention strategies using signs and messages throughout the facility
  - Health screening
  - Isolate and transport staff and participants who have symptoms while at the ADSC
  - Notify health officials and close contacts
  - Modify layouts
  - Physical barriers and guides
  - Activities
  - Transportation
- **Mental health resources**

## Day Programs (cont.)

### Participants at Adult Day Services Centers and their Caregivers

- Participants (adults who attend ADSCs) and their caregivers can also take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones by helping reduce the spread of COVID-19 at ADSC facilities and at home.
  - Get a COVID-19 vaccine
  - Wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart
  - Wash your hands
  - Stay safe when using transportation

# Transportation – All Service Types

## Protect Yourself When Using Transportation

- For all types of transportation
- Public transit
- Rideshare, carpool, taxi, limo for-hire vehicle passengers
- Shared automobiles, rental cars, scooters, skateboards, and other micro-mobility devices
- Personal vehicles
- Paratransit services
- Personal bikes, walking, wheelchair rolling, or moving with mobility assistive devices
- People with transportation-related jobs

# Navigating the Guidance

1. Do we have to maintain distancing in our community participation services/day program?
2. Do participants and staff need to mask?
  - Licensed community home?
  - While providing/receiving services in the community?
  - While riding in a van to the day program?

## Navigating the Guidance (cont.)

- Q. Do we have to maintain distancing in our community participation services/day program?
- A. ODP Announcement 21-048 → [Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers, Strategies for Administrators and Staff to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19](#) → Maintain Healthy Operations → Modify Layouts

## Modify layouts

- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for [physical distancing](#). People from the same household can be in groups together. Space seating at least 6 feet apart. Provide visual cues such as tape or chalk to guide spacing.

# Navigating the Guidance (cont.)

Q. Do participants and staff need to mask in a licensed home?

A. Participant: ODP Announcement 21-048 → [Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities](#) → Plan for accommodations, modifications, and assistance for GH residents

A. Staff: ODP Announcement 21-048 → [Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities](#) → Follow guidance for Direct Service Providers (DSPs) → [Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#) → *How can I protect myself and the people I work with?*

An individualized approach for COVID-19 may be needed for individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities who have limited mobility and difficulty accessing information, require close contact with direct service providers, have trouble understanding information, have difficulties with changes in routines, or have other concerns related to their disability. This approach should account for the following:

- Social distancing and isolating within a GH may be difficult for many people with disabilities.
- Wearing [masks](#) may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues. Masks are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.

As a DSP, your risk of exposure will depend on factors including the setting you work in, the number of people you provide services to, and the spread of COVID-19 in your community. Check with your employer for any specific policies and procedures related to COVID-19 and practice [everyday prevention actions](#) when working with clients without suspected or confirmed COVID-19. In addition:

- When possible, keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others in the home or community setting.
- Wear a [mask](#) when you are at work.
- Encourage your client to wear a [mask](#).
  - Wearing masks may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues. Masks are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.



# Navigating the Guidance (cont.)

Q. Do participants and staff need to mask while providing/receiving services in the community?

A. Participant: ODP  
Announcement 21-048

*Community locations: When Community Participation Support (CPS) services are provided in community settings, state and local guidelines for physical distancing and masking for the applicable community setting should be followed.*

A. Staff: ODP Announcement  
21-048 → [Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#) →  
*How can I protect myself and the people I work with?*

As a DSP, your risk of exposure will depend on factors including the setting you work in, the number of people you provide services to, and the spread of COVID-19 in your community. Check with your employer for any specific policies and procedures related to COVID-19 and practice [everyday prevention actions](#) when working with clients without suspected or confirmed COVID-19. In addition:


- When possible, keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others in the home or community setting.
- Wear a [mask](#) when you are at work.
- Encourage your client to wear a [mask](#).
  - Wearing masks may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral issues. Masks are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.



# Navigating the Guidance (cont.)

Q. Do participants and staff need to mask while riding in a van to the day program?

A. Participant: ODP Announcement 21-048 → [Participants at Adult Day Services Centers and their Caregivers](#) → What you can do to protect yourself and others → Stay safe when using transportation

 Stay safe when using transportation

- Avoid group transportation, if possible. If not possible, [follow CDC's transportation guidance](#).
- Use all necessary precautions such as wearing a [mask](#), [physical distancing](#), and good [hand hygiene](#). For public transportation, please refer to [CDC's mask requirement](#).
- Stay at least 6 feet from the driver and other passengers if possible.
- Avoid riding with unmasked drivers or passengers.

## Transportation

- Schedule and stagger drop off or pick up times for participants to avoid crowding.
- Encourage [physical distancing](#) among staff and participants at the entrance and exit during these drop off and pick up times with use of visual cues like tapes and signs.
- Transport and bus drivers should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other workers (for example, [hand hygiene](#), [masks](#)).
  - Follow guidance for [bus transit operators](#) to clean buses or other transport vehicles.
  - Seat participants at least 6 feet apart while in transport vehicles.
  - Drivers should provide ventilation by opening the windows or setting the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode when the vehicle is in service.
  - Paratransit drivers should take extra care in transporting patients with special needs and take all necessary safety precautions to prevent COVID-19. Please visit [What Paratransit Operators Need to Know about COVID-19](#) for more information.
  - Create participant pods (keeping small groups together) to limit mixing and create distance between passengers on buses, vans and other transport vehicles (for example, skip rows) when possible.

A. Staff: ODP Announcement 21-048 → [Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers, Strategies for Administrators and Staff to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19](#) → Maintain Healthy Operations → Transportation

# ODP Expectations

## Providers

- Holistic review of individuals served, staff employed, and service provision setting to incorporate CDC and DOH guidelines into policies as appropriate.
  - Understand the *ripple effect* of your policy decisions
- Timely and Consistent Communication about Policies and Procedures
  - All individuals and families
  - All providers providing services to individuals
  - Except as provided by guidance, providers must allow family visits.
- Recommendations, not requirements
  - Does not replace any federal, state, or local public health and safety laws, rules, and regulations
  - If CDC and DOH guidance conflicts, DOH guidance should be followed as they are the lead agency of the COVID-19 response for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

# ODP Expectations (cont.)

## Do I *have* to follow the guidance?

- ODP will view the totality of the situation and within the appropriate context.
- Was the decision made in collaboration with subject matter experts, in communication with, and within the context of the larger system of service provision?
- If not following the recommendations would result in not meeting the requirements of existing ODP regulations then appropriate action will be taken.

## **ODP Expectations (cont.)**

### **What about Department, Administrative Entity and Supports Coordination access to community homes and day programs?**

- Providers may not refuse access to:
  - Department staff including licensing and other regional office staff
  - Administrative Entity Staff
  - Supports Coordinators conducting individual monitoring
- Access for inspections, investigations and individual monitoring may not be denied.
- Alternatives to mitigate risk may be requested and negotiated including:
  - Masking, screening required
  - You may ask vaccination status but response is not required
  - Meeting outdoors for monitoring and interviews
  - Limiting number of external parties on-site at one time
  - Request a scheduled start and end time

# ODP Expectations (cont.)

## Individuals and Families

- Providers communicate with you about their policies and procedures and keep you updates as policies and procedures change
  - Except as provided by guidance, providers must allow family visits.
- You have a right to request appropriate risk mitigation strategies from your service provider
  - Masking, screening, etc.
  - You may ask vaccination status of staff but response is not required
- Any individual over the age of 12 has been provided with the opportunity for COVID-19 vaccination. SCO's should have reached out to each individual with education and resources for vaccination.

# Resources



## Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT)

- 6400 Group Homes eligible
- [Contact Information](#), RCAT assigned by County

## PA DOH

- 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)
- [Web Form](#)
- V/TTY 717-783-6514

## Health Care Quality Units (HCQUs)

- [Contact Information](#), assigned by region

## ODP

- Regional Offices
- [rapwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov](mailto:rapwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov)