**Covid-19 Update**

**January 22, 2022**

**Individuals and Staff COVID19 Graph**

**Cases: 29 cases of COVID19. For 96 Weeks. Please keep up the good work. **

**Relocation Information:**

**Currently 0 Individuals have been relocated.**

**Training/ Human Resource:**

* **No New Updates**

**Medical:**

* Should staff have any questions, please reach out to Char. [cstiffey@nfhcs.org](mailto:cstiffey@nfhcs.org)

**DOH Information:**

* **The Department of Health website:** [**https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx**](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx)
* **Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard:** 
  + <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

**The DOH recommends the following to help reduce the spread of Covid-19:**

* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
* Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
* Clean surfaces frequently.
* Stay home to avoid spreading COVID-19, especially if you are unwell.
* If you must go out, you are required to wear a mask when in a business or where it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing.
* Download the COVID Alert PA app and make your phone part of the fight. The free app can be found in the [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.pa.covidtracker) and the [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1527125511) by searching for “covid alert pa”.

**DOH Frequently Asked Questions regarding Covid-19 Vaccine:**

**The vaccine is now readily available to any who wish to be vaccinated and have not yet been.**

Vaccines are safe and effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses. The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to Pennsylvanians in a phased approach.

The COVID-19 vaccine will not be the cure for the virus. It will be another tool in toolbox for our fight against COVID-19, and we must continue to practice other mitigation efforts, like wearing a mask, hand washing, physical distancing and downloading [COVID Alert PA](https://www.pa.gov/covid/covid-alert-pa).

**\*\* Link to full Q&A Here:** [Vaccine FAQs (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/FAQs.aspx)

**DOH Additional Dose FAQ:**

[Additional Dose FAQs (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Guidance/Additional-Dose-FAQs.aspx)

Have a question about the COVID-19 vaccines? Call the PA Health Hotline at 1-877-724-3258.

**PA Health Department Vaccine Webpage:**

[COVID-19 Vaccine (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx#map)

**Allegheny County Health Department Vaccine Webpage:**

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information | COVID-19 | Health Department | Allegheny County](https://alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx)

**Allegheny County Vaccine Registration Site:**

[Home (alleghenycounty.us)](https://vax4.alleghenycounty.us/patient/s/)

**IMPORTANT Covid-19 Information for Travelers** –

**As of March 1, 2021** the Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation Relating To Travel is **no longer in effect**. Travelers should still practice appropriate public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 such as masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. Travelers should also be aware of any restrictions that may be in place at their destination, and also observe CDC guidelines.

**Full information from the PA DOH can be found at the following link:**

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

**Additional CDC Travel Information can be found here:**

[Travel | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)

**Updated guidance on masking in PA UPDATED 6.28.21.**

**The mask mandate is no longer in effect HOWEVER caretakers are to continue to wear masks during provision of service per guidance from the ODP as well as CDC. The CDC still recommends wearing a mask in public settings.**

**Full information can be found at the following link:**

[Universal Masking FAQ (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx)

* **Covid site and app for PA:** Explore this site to learn more about what you can do to protect yourself, your family, business, neighbors, and community from COVID.
  + <https://www.pa.gov/covid/>
  + There is also now a **Covid Alert PA** app that you can download: <https://www.pa.gov/covid/covid-alert-pa/>

**Important CDC Links:**

* **Covid Data Tracker – Integrated County View – Any County/State is selectable on this map for the purpose of viewing transmission. Note that as of 1.22.22. Allegheny County is in a HIGH rate of transmission.**
  + **Link Here:** [CDC COVID Data Tracker](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)
* **(NEW) CDC Types of Masks and respirators:**
  + **Link Here:** [Types of Masks and Respirators | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html)
* **CDC Guidance for long term care facilities:**
  + **Link Here:** [Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care Facilities | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-home-long-term-care.html)
* **CDC Covid-19 page**
  + **Link Here:** [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
* **CDC: COVID-19 Materials for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and care providers:**
  + [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/humandevelopment/COVID-19-Materials-for-People-with-IDD.html)
* **CDC: Safer ways to celebrate Holidays:**
  + [Holiday Tips (cdc.gov)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/celebrations.html)

**Other Important Covid-19 News:**

* **12.13.21. School Districts begin updating mask guidance in wake of PA Supreme court decision:**
  + Link Here: [School Districts Begin Updating Mask Guidance In Wake Of Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Decision – CBS Pittsburgh (cbslocal.com)](https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/12/13/school-districts-update-mask-guidance-pa-supreme-court/)
* **10.29.21. FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Children 5 through 11 years of age.**
  + Link Here: [FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Children 5 through 11 Years of Age | FDA](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age)
* **10.20.21. COVID-19 Update: FDA takes additional actions on the use of a booster dose for COVID-19 Vaccines.**
  + Link Here: [Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Takes Additional Actions on the Use of a Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines | FDA](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-additional-actions-use-booster-dose-covid-19-vaccines)
* **8.4.21. Covid 19 Transmission levels in PA- CDC recommends masking in certain areas**
  + Link Here: [Map: Pa. COVID-19 transmission levels in each county (wtae.com)](https://www.wtae.com/article/pennsylvania-covid-19-transmission-cdc-masks-august-1/37201125)
* **5.10.21.** FDA authorizes Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds
  + Link Here: [FDA authorizes Pfizer vaccine for 12-15-year-olds - ABC News (go.com)](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/fda-authorizes-pfizer-12-15-year-olds/story?id=77419872)

# Department Of Health Aligns Quarantine Guidance For Fully Vaccinated Individuals With CDC COVID-19 Recommendations

* Link Here: [Department of Health Aligns Quarantine Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals with CDC COVID-19 Recommendations](https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health-Details.aspx?newsid=1314&fbclid=IwAR1Bx_RcMdwTk5_Ma4C0-lSNfBxOJBtth0THE1aGAAdB6lY-ldtmBOP5HW8)

**Continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. If staff or an individual is experiencing symptoms, please report to supervisor/nurse.**

**What Are the Symptoms**?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.  
These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

* Fever.
* Cough.
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
* Diarrhea.
* Chills.
* Repeated shaking with chills.
* Muscle pain.
* Headache
* Sore throat.
* New loss of taste or smell.

**I Have Symptoms. Now What**?

**If they are mild**: Stay home, rest, and drink fluids. Take acetaminophen to bring down your fever. If you feel worse, call your health care provider.

**If they are severe**: For severe symptoms (including a fever above 100°), call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

If it is an emergency: Call 911.

**You can also check your symptoms here:**

* **Covid-19 Symptoms Checker:** [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html)

**Testing for Covid-19**

* **Map of Covid-19 testing sites in Pennsylvania:** [**https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx**](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Symptoms-Testing.aspx)
* **Curative testing:** [**COVID-19 Testing & Health Services | Curative**](https://curative.com/)
* **CVS Rapid Result Testing (available at several locations in the Pittsburgh area):**

[**COVID-19 Testing and Locations | MinuteClinic (cvs.com)**](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing)

* **Get free at home Covid tests:** [COVIDtests.gov - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](https://www.covidtests.gov/)
* **STAFF: Please note that if you are tested for Covid-19, it is your responsibility to communicate with HR as well as NFHCS Nurse Charlene Stiffey, submit all paperwork, and complete any follow up instructions.**

**Residential/ Program**

* **Residential staff: Please continue with increased cleaning/sanitizing measures due to the current increase in Covid-19 cases in the community**
* **Per an e-mail sent out on 1.14.22. – Residential is currently under a Modified Lockdown due to HIGH levels of COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County.**
* Residential Homes have received Kindle Fire tablets. These tablets will be used for virtual meetings with SC/ BH and family and friends of the Individuals.
* Thermometers and washable masks have been delivered to each of the homes.
* All homes have been given the Covid-19 Safety Procedures for Businesses.
* A statement has been added to the medical section on the monthly/quarterly reviews to address current precautions that are being taken as well as addressing if any symptoms have been displayed.
* Additional training was conducted with the individuals to review masks and handwashing, etc.
* We have created a COVID binder at the office to keep all communications, trainings, releases, etc. that we review with the individuals.  At the homes, we put a tab in their purple binders to keep all the COVID information.

**PA HAN (Health Alert Network) Updates:**

**This is a link that will take you to the most recent HAN alerts:**

[2022-HAN (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2022-HAN.aspx)

[2021-HAN (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/prep/PA-HAN/Pages/2021-HAN.aspx)

(NEW) HAN 620 Therapeutics to prevent and treat COVID-19:

[2022-620-1-15-ADV-COVID Therapeutics.pdf (pa.gov)](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-620-1-15-ADV-COVID%20Therapeutics.pdf)

**Guidance from ODP**

* **Please visit** [**www.myodp.org**](http://www.myodp.org) **for up to date Covid 19 information. Links to important updates can also be found below.**
* **STATUS UPDATE: Allegheny County is now in a HIGH rate of transmission**
  + **Infogram for this data available here:** [PA covid levels of transmission - Infogram](https://infogram.com/pa-covid-levels-of-transmission-1hxr4zxmzv7lq6y).
* **11.18.21. ODP Announcement 21-077 Infection Control Procedures and Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an ID.**
  + [ODP Announcement (amazonaws.com)](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+21-077+Coronavirus+Disease+2019+(COVID-19)+Infection+Control+Procedures+and+Mitigating+the+Spread+of+COVID-19+in+Intermediate+Care+Facilities+for+Individuals+with+an+Intellectual+Disability.pdf)
* **10.29.21. ODP Announcement 21-078 Booster for Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen Vaccine Recipients.** 
  + [ODP Announcement (amazonaws.com)](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+21-078+Coronavirus+Disease+2019+(COVID-19)+Booster+Doses+for+Pfizer%2C+Moderna%2C+and+Janssen+Vaccine+Recipients.pdf)
* **10.20.21. Level of community transmission Covid data tracker:** 
  + [ODP+HCBS+At-A-Glance+Level+of+Community+Transmission+10-20-21.pdf (amazonaws.com)](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODP+HCBS+At-A-Glance+Level+of+Community+Transmission+10-20-21.pdf)
* **6.23.21. ODP Announcement 21-048: Covid-19 Update: Guidance for Infection Control and Mitigation for ODP Home and Community Services Providers:**
  + **https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+21-048+Coronavirus+Disease+2019+(COVID-19)+COVID-19+Update+Guidance+for+Infection+Control+and+Mitigation+for+Office+of+Developmental+Programs'+(ODP)+Home+and+Community+Based+Service+Providers.pdf**
* **3.14.21.** [**ODP Announcement 21-027 REISSUE: COVID-19- Approval of Appendix K Extension**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+21-027+Reissue+-+COVID-19-+Approval+of+Appendix+K+Extension.pdf)
* [**ODPANN 21-027 Reissue - COVID-19- Approval of Appendix K Extension.pdf**](file:///C:\Users\aking\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\N1LPPF3T\ODPANN%2021-027%20Reissue%20-%20COVID-19-%20Approval%20of%20Appendix%20K%20Extension.pdf)
* **8.21.20. Clarification of Staff reporting of Covid-19:**
  + [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+20-099+Coronavirus+Disease+2019+(COVID-19)+Clarification+of+Staff+Reporting+of+COVID-19.pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+20-099+Coronavirus+Disease+2019+(COVID-19)+Clarification+of+Staff+Reporting+of+COVID-19.pdf)
* **8.3.30. Update: Notifying Designated Persons and Providers of an Individual’s COVID-19 Exposure or Diagnosis:** 
  + [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+20-086+-+COVID19+-+Notifying+Designated+Persons+and+Providers+of+an+Individual's+COVID-19+Exposure+of+Diagnosis+(UPDATE).pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Communications/ODP/2020/ODPANN+20-086+-+COVID19+-+Notifying+Designated+Persons+and+Providers+of+an+Individual's+COVID-19+Exposure+of+Diagnosis+(UPDATE).pdf)
* **ODP Covid-19 Update (Powerpoint)**
  + **https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP\_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODP+COVID-19+Update+0702+2020+FINAL.pdf**
* **In Home and Community Supports/Companion Services Provider Tool for COVID-19:** <https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODP+AE+IHCS+and+Companion+Provider+Readiness+Tool+for+COVID-19+(FINAL)14.pdf>
* **Diagnosis associated with Elevated Risk of Severe Illness or Death following COVID-19 infection:** [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP\_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-076+-+COVID19+-+Diagnoses+Associated+with+Elevated+Risk+of+Severe+Illness+or+Death+Following+COVID+6-18-2020.pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-076+-+COVID19+-+Diagnoses+Associated+with+Elevated+Risk+of+Severe+Illness+or+Death+Following+COVID+6-18-2020.pdf)
* **Facility Based Community Participation Supports Readiness Tool:** [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP\_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-062+-+ODP+Administrative+Entity+(AE)+Facility+Based+Community+Participation+Supports+Readiness+Tool+for+COVID-19+(FINAL).pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-062+-+ODP+Administrative+Entity+(AE)+Facility+Based+Community+Participation+Supports+Readiness+Tool+for+COVID-19+(FINAL).pdf)
* [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP\_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODP+Facility+CPS+Readiness+Tool+for+COVID-19+(FINAL)+05-27-20.pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODP+Facility+CPS+Readiness+Tool+for+COVID-19+(FINAL)+05-27-20.pdf)
* **Transition Guide:** [**https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-wet-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP\_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-056+-+Individual+Transition+Guide.pdf**](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3-us-wet-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Course+Content/Coronavirus+(COVID-19)/ODPANN+20-056+-+Individual+Transition+Guide.pdf)

**Activities:**

**NFHCS Activities link:**

[January/February Schedule | NFHCS](https://www.nfhcs.org/january-february-schedule)

**Fiscal**

**No current updates**

**Operations**

**No current updates**

**HAB Services -** We continue to provide Hab services on a case-by-case basis.

**Please continue to use extra precautions in the community. Mask in public spaces and sanitize/wash hands frequently, remain an appropriate social distance from others.** **Cases of Covid-19 are currently in HIGH transmission in Allegheny County.**

“HAB Bags” have been created in order to provide HAB employees with necessary tools (sanitizers, gloves, masks, etc.) to provide services.

**END OF REPORT**