

**TO:** All MA and CT Staff  
**FROM:** Peggy Johnson, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Jeanne Russo, Chief Operating Officer  
**DATE:** May 3, 2023  
**RE:** Infection Control Updates  
**CC:** Infection Control Committee Members

Good morning everyone,

Based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services has declared the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. At Vinfen our response to the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, remains a priority, but we are in a better place than we were three years ago; and we will be transitioning away from the emergency phase. Vinfen's Infection Control Committee members are monitoring the changing guidelines and we will begin to revise many of our guidelines and practices. **Going forward we will continue to flex our policies in line with increases and decreases in COVID risk if necessary.**

#### **Effective immediately:**

#### **Mask Mandate**

Masks are strongly encouraged in all settings including day, clubhouse, transportation, and residential settings:

- However, masks are not mandatory any longer unless staff are performing a treatment/procedure with a client that requires gloves. In that case masks are mandatory. **If you have gloves on put a mask on!**
- Staff and clients are strongly encouraged to wear masks whenever possible particularly if you or a client is known to be immune and/or medically compromised, however masks will now be optional.

#### **COVID Screening Requirements**

- COVID screenings for visitors, staff and residents will be replaced with the typical building/program sign in required pre-COVID emergency.

#### **Surveillance Testing**

- Weekly surveillance testing is no longer required in any setting. Please use the rapid tests if staff or clients appear symptomatic.

#### **Vaccine Mandate**

- COVID vaccination is no longer mandatory for employment at a Vinfen program or administrative setting. While vaccination is highly encouraged it is no longer mandatory.

### **Staff Meetings/Staff Training**

- Masks are no longer mandatory for these gatherings. Please continue to utilize air purifiers, open windows, and appropriate space between seats.

### **Residential Visits**

- All policies and procedures regarding client family and friend visitors will return to pre-COVID emergency status. They should be specific by program or groups of programs.

We recognize that the COVID-19 has been extraordinary challenging for everyone, and your efforts to comply with the recommendations established during the PHE are appreciated. Thank you for your continued commitment and support for the people we serve.



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