

Infection Control Procedures and Mitigating the Spread of Infectious Diseases

ODP Announcement 23-046

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 the 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

DISCUSSION:

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.

The following communications and links provide the most recent recommendations for infection control and mitigation strategies for healthcare settings and healthcare personnel.

05/11-2023 DOH HAN 694-5-11-UPD Interim Infectious Prevention and Control recommendations for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings, ([2023-694-5-11-UPD-IPC for Healthcare.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#))

5/8/2023 CDC updated guidance Infection Prevention and Control Recommendation for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic ([Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#)) and

11/29/2022 [CDC's Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings | Infection Control | CDC](#)

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 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 respiratory virus transmission rates. This may necessitate coordination among providers

for policy development to effectively support individuals receiving services from multiple providers, across multiple settings or locations.

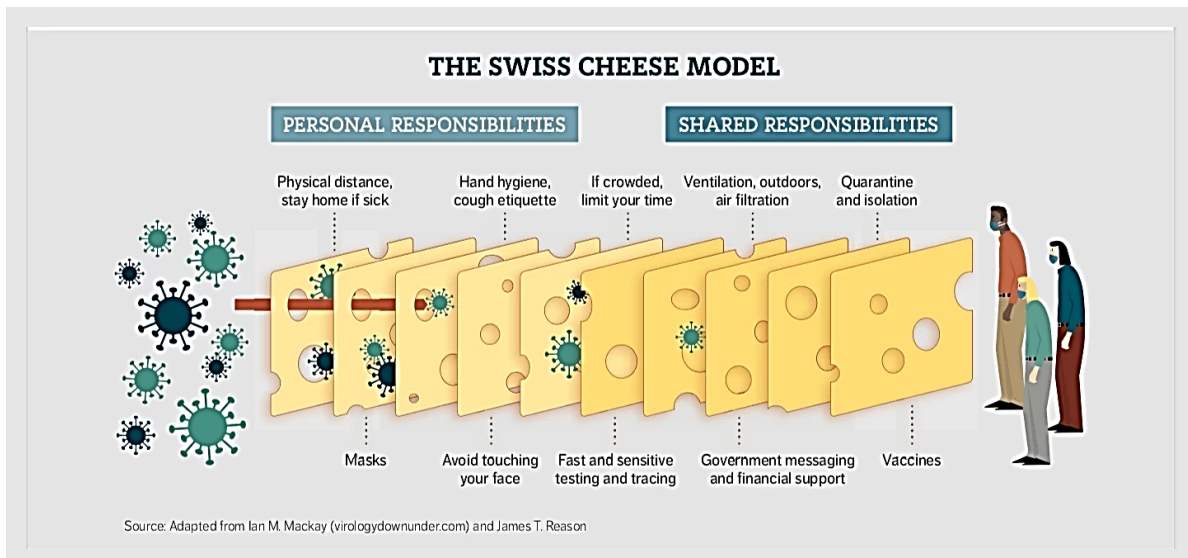
These resources are provided for consideration when developing your policies. The provision of these resources should not be interpreted to be a complete or priority list.

- [Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#) – *This guidance is applicable to all U.S. settings where healthcare is delivered (including nursing homes and home health).*
- [CDC’s Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings | Infection Control | CDC](#)

–“ This document concisely describes a core set of infection prevention and control practices that are required in all healthcare settings, regardless of the type of healthcare provided.”
- [2023-694-5-11-UPD-IPC for Healthcare.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Direct Service Providers from the CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers from the CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers from the CDC](#)
- [Building Capacity for Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Preparedness Planning and Response from the CDC](#)
- [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 and other infectious diseases 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 a [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 [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 694. 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 and other infectious diseases 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](#)
- [qs0-23-02-all.pdf \(cms.gov\)](#) [2023-694-5-11-UPD-IPC for Healthcare.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#) [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 following announcement has been obsoleted

[Updated - Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic 10/04/2022](#)

QUESTIONS

For additional information regarding this announcement please email RA-PWODPEMRGNCYRSPRQ@pa.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – Non-Traditional Infection Control Consulting (NICC) Team Flyer
- Attachment 2 - What to Know about Non-traditional Infection Control Consulting (NICC)