



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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STATE OF MARYLAND

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Guidance for DPSCS Community-based Administrative, Supervision, Police, and Training on Day-to-Day COVID-19 Prevention and Strategies for Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention

Effective September 12, 2022, the following procedures and guidance are in effect for all community-based units, agencies, and divisions within the Department until notified of a change.

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Prevention in DPSCS Community-based Administrative, Supervision, Police, and Training Operations

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Additional Layers of Protection

Masking

- The use of masks, respirators, and face coverings is no longer required in the Department's community-based units, agencies, and divisions unless enhanced COVID-19 prevention measures are ordered by the Secretary or the Secretary's designee.
- The Department will continue to provide quality surgical masks for employees working in community-based offices prefer to remain masked. Employees should consult their supervisor for unit/agency specific guidance.

Hand Hygiene

- The Department will continue to make hand sanitizer routinely available and easily accessible throughout community-based offices.
- Employees, supervised individuals, and visitors are still encouraged to practice good hand hygiene by regularly washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer in the absence of hand washing facilities, especially after a person coughs, sneezes, or blows his or her nose; after using the bathroom; before eating or preparing food; before taking medication; and after touching garbage.

Social Distancing

- The practices of a maintaining at least six feet of physical space between one individual and another is no longer required unless enhanced COVID-19 prevention measures are ordered by the Secretary or the Secretary's designee.

Infection Control Practices

- The Department's Respiratory Protection Program will continue as normal in accordance with *ADM.055.0007— DPSCS Respiratory Protection Program*.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

- As suggested by the MDH Guidance dated August 17, 2022, anyone working in, residing in, or visiting a correctional facility is encouraged to be vaccinated and keep up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccines and recommended boosters.
- To the extent that free COVID-19 vaccines and recommended boosters are made available to the Department, the Department will continue to offer employees free vaccines and recommended boosters. For additional information on vaccines and boosters visit [DBM's COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#).

COVID-19 Testing

- MDH's PCR COVID-19 testing of DPSCS employees at correctional facilities will be discontinued effective September 12, 2022. DPSCS employees, contractors, and vendors who are required to test should continue testing until that date.
- At Home COVID-19 Rapid Antigen tests will be available to employees and authorized vendors and contractors. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding how you will receive or request home test kits.

Strategies for Enhanced COVID-19 Prevention in Community-based Administrative and Supervision Offices

The Department may consider implementing enhanced COVID-19 prevention strategies in community-based offices when the COVID-19 Community Level is medium or high or when other-factors indicate increased risk.

Because Department employees who work in community-based offices often go to meetings or work remotely in correctional facilities, the Secretary may also assess whether to implement certain enhanced strategies for COVID-19 prevention in specific community-based offices even when the Community Levels are low.

Prior entering a correctional facility, community-based employees should be mindful of the facility's current level of required PPE.

Enhanced prevention strategies include but are not limited to: enhanced ventilation, increased COVID-19 testing including routine screening testing, universal indoor masking, and physical distancing.

Note: New COVID-19 procedures related to personnel matters are available in: *OOS IB # 2022-07 - COVID-19 Guidance for Personnel Management.*



Robert L. Green, Secretary

Distribution:

A – Facility/Agency Reference Set

S – DPSCS Employees in Community-based offices