



COVID-19 Interim Modified Guidance for Congregate Programs

Last Updated: 5/19/2021

Guidance Overview:

This document explains the interim changes to modified operations in congregate programs in light of [Mayor's Order 2021-069](#) on Modified Measures for Spring/Summer 2021 of Washington DC Reopening. **Unless specified below, all modified operations currently in place will continue.** DHS will update this guidance as we receive additional input from providers, stakeholders, and DC Health.

Safeguards:

The spread of COVID-19 remains a serious threat to individuals who are not vaccinated.

Masks and physical distancing are still important tools for reducing risk for COVID-19 for unvaccinated persons, persons who are immunosuppressed, and persons living and working in certain settings. Residents, staff, and visitors have a personal obligation to be vaccinated as soon as possible and to abide by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) guidance on mask wearing to protect themselves and those they interact with personally and professionally.

Residents and staff – regardless of vaccination status – shall continue to:

- Wear mask at all times – in dorms as well as shared spaces;
- Participate in daily symptom screening and temperature checks;
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times;
- Practice stringent personal sanitation and hygiene practices (e.g. frequent hand washing); and
- Notify shelter staff or on-site nurses when feeling sick; and
- Regularly disinfect surfaces and objects.

Referrals to Isolation and Quarantine Sites (ISAQ):

The DHS Isolation and Quarantine (ISAQ) hotline and the DHS-run ISAQ sites will remain open for any resident who needs to be referred due to testing positive for COVID-19, demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms (that are not side effects from getting vaccinated), or being identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive.

The following groups ***no longer*** need to be referred to Isolation and Quarantine (ISAQ) or if staff, no longer need to quarantine at home, if they are identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19:

1. Individuals who are fully vaccinated if they meet the following criteria:
 - a. It has been at least 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose



series, or two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single dose vaccine; AND

b. The individual has remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

2. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days.

Shelter staff should continue to call the ISAQ hotline with all identified close contacts after a confirmed positive case. The ISAQ hotline will check DHS records to see if the individual(s) being referred fit into either two categories. If vaccination records are not available through DHS, the client can present their vaccination card to shelter staff as proof of vaccination.

Mass Testing:

DHS will continue to provide mass testing at sites after a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. The following groups do not need to participate in mass testing:

- Residents and staff who have been fully vaccinated, unless they are an identified close contact of the individual who tested positive
- Residents and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days

Travel Restrictions:

Effective immediately, [Mayor's Order 2021-069](#) ends all travel restrictions to the District. Residents and staff no longer need to quarantine or get tested after traveling to a different state.

Vaccinations:

Residents and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. The District of Columbia has 14 walk-up sites – no appointment needed. You can find the list of sites here:

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/dontwait>. You can also call 1-855-363-0333 to arrange to have a team come out to vaccinate.

Additional Questions:

If you have any additional questions please see <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> or contact dhs.covid19@dc.gov.