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PIN 24-04-ASC  
(Supersedes PIN 24-01-ASC)

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Kevin Gaines*  
KEVIN GAINES, Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **UPDATED GUIDANCE ON RESPIRATORY VIRUSES INCLUDING  
COVID-19, INFLUENZA, AND RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS  
(RSV)**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 24-04-ASC supersedes [PIN 24-01-ASC](#), dated March 11, 2024, and provides updated guidance to Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees incorporating a broader, multi-pronged approach to multiple respiratory viruses. The PIN updates masking guidance; removes COVID-19 specific screening, isolation, testing, and visitation guidance; and reminds licensees about the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations and ASC Infection Control Regulations.

***Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where all persons in care and facility staff as well as families and representatives of persons in care in the facility can easily access it and distribute the PIN to persons in care and/or, if applicable, their representatives.***

California is experiencing reduced impacts from COVID-19 due to broad immunity from vaccination and/or natural infection, and treatments are readily available for people who are infected. Because of this, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is updating its guidance to move away from a COVID-19 specific framework and aligning with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) respiratory virus recommendations. Guidance continues to focus on preventing severe outcomes for those at high risk and in high-risk settings.

This PIN provides the following updates:

- New recommendations that incorporate a broader, multi-pronged approach to multiple respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV.
- Updated masking guidance.
- Removal of COVID-19 specific screening, isolation, testing, and visitation guidance.
- New CDPH resources such as the [Respiratory Virus Page](#) and [How to Get Tested for COVID-19](#).

The PIN also provides the following reminders:

- Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations are in effect until February 3, 2025.
- Licensees must continue to follow ASC Infection Control Regulations. Licensees should update their Infection Control Plan based on CDPH recommendations outlined in this PIN.

*If there are differing requirements between the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDPH, CDSS, California Department of Developmental Services (CDDS), California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), and local health department guidance or health orders, **licensees should follow the strictest requirements**. However, there may be times where a licensee will need to contact their Regional Office for assistance in reconciling these differences, especially if the strictest requirements appear to be in conflict with the best interest of persons in care.*

## RESPIRATORY VIRUS GUIDANCE

On May 22, 2024, CDPH updated its respiratory virus recommendations to incorporate COVID-19 along with other common respiratory viruses such as influenza and RSV. The CDPH [Respiratory Virus Page](#) provides information about prevention, testing, and what to do if you feel sick.

**Important!** If a person in care or facility staff has symptoms of a respiratory virus, or tests positive even without symptoms, follow CDC recommendations for [Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick](#). For facility staff with COVID-19, please see the COVID-19 Workplace Requirements section below.

## MASKING

CDPH has provided updated masking recommendations in [When and Why to Wear a Mask](#). Wearing a mask continues to be important for those who are at [higher risk](#) for severe respiratory infections and for staff and visitors of ASC facilities where higher risk individuals are present. As the risk for respiratory infection transmission increases in the community, wearing a mask is also an important consideration.

## COVID-19 WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

Licensees should continue to refer to [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#) for masking, testing close contacts, outbreak/response testing, work exclusion, and return-to-work criteria for facility staff. Licensees have the option to implement additional protective procedures for infected or exposed staff based on local circumstances.

## ASC INFECTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

Licensees must continue to follow regulations related to infection control, prevention, and mitigation for communicable diseases in ASC facilities (excluding Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN)). This includes the requirement for ASC facilities to have an Infection Control Plan that includes, but is not limited to, the following: an infection control training plan, guidelines related to environmental cleaning and disinfection, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and hygiene and cough etiquette. **Licensees should update their Infection Control Plan based on CDPH recommendations outlined in this PIN.**

**Note:** When an emergency, as defined in Government Code [section 8558](#), or federal emergency for a communicable disease is proclaimed or declared, licensees must develop an Emergency Infection Control Plan that includes infection control measures that are not already addressed in the Infection Control Plan, as specified. Licensees should review the regulatory requirements for an Emergency Infection Control Plan pursuant to their facility specific regulations.

The [Residential Infection Control Plan form \(LIC 9282\)](#) and [Adult Day Programs Infection Control Plan \(LIC 9283\)](#) are courtesy forms available to help licensees develop an Infection Control Plan and Emergency Infection Control Plan.

See [PIN 23-12-ASC](#) for additional information and updates that became effective July 1, 2023.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES

The following resources are available online:

- California Department of Industrial Relations
  - [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
  - [All COVID-19 Guidance](#)
  - [Get Tested, California](#)
  - [How to Get Tested for COVID-19](#) (NEW)
  - [Local health departments](#)

- [Respiratory Virus Page](#) (NEW)
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
  - [Community Care Licensing Division homepage](#) (includes all COVID-19 related materials (PINs and other resources))
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your local [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).