

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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March 13, 2025

PIN 25-02-ASC (Supersedes PIN 24-04-ASC)

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

Original signed by Kevin Gaines

FROM: KEVIN GAINES, Deputy Director

Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COVID-19 WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS AND

REMINDERS OF GUIDANCE ON RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 25-02-ASC supersedes PIN 24-04-ASC, dated June 27, 2024. The PIN provides updated guidance on the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations and reminds licensees of previously released information including guidance on respiratory viruses, masking, and Adult and Senior Care (ASC) Infection Control Regulations.

Important: This PIN has similar content to PIN 24-04-ASC, except for updates made to COVID-19 Workplace Requirements.

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 continues to experience reduced impacts from COVID-19 due to broad immunity from vaccination and/or natural infection. As such, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) continues to align with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) respiratory virus recommendations which focus on preventing severe outcomes for those at high risk and in high-risk settings.

Updated! This PIN announces that the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations expired February 3, 2025.

The PIN also contains information previously provided in PIN 24-04-ASC on the following:

- Respiratory Virus Guidance
- Masking
- ASC Infection Control Requirements
- CDPH Resources

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.

UPDATED: COVID-19 WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

<u>Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations</u> for masking, testing close contacts, outbreak/response testing, work exclusion, and return-to-work criteria for facility staff expired on February 3, 2025. The reporting and recordkeeping requirements remain in effect and require that employers keep record of COVID-19 cases in employees until February 3, 2026. All case records must be retained until February 3, 2028. Licensees have the option to implement additional protective procedures for infected or exposed staff based on local circumstances or as required by a local health officer order.

For more information on workplace requirements, please visit the <u>Cal/OSHA COVID-19</u> Guidance and Resources page.

RESPIRATORY VIRUS GUIDANCE

CDPH provides 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.

MASKING

CDPH provides 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.

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 review their Infection Control Plan and update as needed based on CDPH recommendations outlined in this PIN.

Note: When an emergency, as defined in Government Code <u>section 8558</u>, 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 <u>Residential Infection Control Plan form (LIC 9282)</u> and <u>Adult Day Programs Infection Control Plan (LIC 9283)</u> 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES

The following resources are available online:

- California Department of Industrial Relations
 - <u>Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations</u> (ARCHIVED)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
 - o All COVID-19 Guidance
 - Local health departments
 - Respiratory Virus Page
- 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)
 - o Coronavirus Disease 2019

If you have any questions, please contact your local <u>Adult and Senior Care Regional</u> <u>Office</u>.