

CDC's Guidance for Health Care Facilities Remains Unchanged

On August 11, 2022, the CDC issued new guidance for isolation and masking for symptomatic individuals and others who are exposed to COVID-19.

Some of our members have been asking, "does this impact dental practices?" The short answer is "no."

According to CDC, the new guidance is "intended to apply to community settings." However, the guidance states that "in the coming weeks CDC will work to align stand-alone guidance documents, such as those for healthcare settings, congregate settings at higher risk of transmission, and travel" with its August 11 guidance.

As a reminder: PDA confirmed with the Pennsylvania Department of Health that the CDC's "COVID-19 Community Levels" guidance for masking in public settings **does not apply to health care settings (including public areas)** and that the **DOH Guidance for Dental Health Care Personnel** from June 2020, recommending that dentists continue to follow the CDC's recommendations for health care settings, remains in effect.

CDC's most current recommendations for health care settings (Feb. 2, 2022) recommends universal source control. Well-fitting masks are recommended for everyone in a healthcare setting. This includes waiting rooms and other "public" areas. Though CDC recommendations are not enforceable as a regulation or ruling, Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry regulations consider a failure to follow CDC guidelines unprofessional conduct, subject to disciplinary action.

To better assist our members who have patients questioning the masking recommendation, **PDA collaborated with ADA to create signs that you may print and post in different areas of your office.**

We are proud to be the trusted voice of dentistry in PA and your trusted resource for reliable information. We will keep you updated when anything changes.