



**Frequently Asked Questions – Guidance for Adult Day Centers (10/15/20)**

All answers were vetted by expert representatives of the VT Department of Health, the Department of Disabilities Aging & Independent Living, and the VT Agency of Transportation.

1. **Question:** Can Adult Day Centers require facial coverings in order to participate?

**Answer:** Yes. Page 6 of the current guidance encourages providers to prioritize attendance for participants “who are at lower risk, are able to wear a mask or face covering while at the center and are able to understand and follow distancing and hand hygiene protocol. Participants are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should attend Adult Day.”

Further, the [July 24<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Governor’s Executive Order](#) states that:

“Businesses and non-profit and government entities shall implement measures notifying customers or clients of the requirement to wear masks or facial coverings, which may include, but shall not be limited to, posting signage stating that masks or cloth facial coverings are required and denial of entry or service to customers or clients who decline to wear masks or facial coverings.”

2. **Question:** Can we use plexiglass barriers so that participants could play cards/games on 5-foot round table?

**Answer:** Yes, but the guidance comes with a number of caveats. The amount of protection that plexiglass barriers can provide depends on the room itself: How big/high it is, what the ventilation is like, how many people are in the room, how much movement there is throughout the room creating air currents, etc. It is important to be aware that plexiglass could give a false sense of security and may lead to people wanting to remove masks. This would be a major exception to the rule of being within 6 ft of contact and the duration of a card game would exceed the 15-minute threshold for close contact. In light of this, ADs should maintain a log of which participants engage in card games with others, in the event that Contact Tracing needs to be employed. Also, wearing gloves is only helpful if people are diligent about not touching their own faces after touching cards and before washing hands.

If ADs decide to pursue this option the following guidance may be helpful:

- [CDC link for guidance to casinos.](#)
- [CDC link for visual guidance on manufacturing workstations.](#)
- [University of Washington guidance on plexiglass.](#) Please note that this is not CDC or VDH endorsed but offers great food for thought.

3. **Question:** Should a participant attend adult day if a household member is self-quarantining due to close contact or high-risk travel?

**Answer:** No, out of caution participants that live with persons that are quarantining because they have had known contact with a positive case of COVID-19, or they have engaged in high-risk travel (flights, inter-state bussing, travel to a high-morbidity area where they were out in public for extended periods, etc.) should stay home until the person they live with has



completed Vermont quarantine requirements. Normally contact tracing conducted by the VT Department of Health stops at people deemed to be close contacts of cases and does not extend to contacts of contacts. Example: if a person that lives with a participant were to be a close contact of a known case and quarantine recommended, quarantine would not be recommended for the participant. That said, due to the level of risk among this population, suspending attendance during the household member's quarantine period is recommended.

4. **Question:** Should we be following the same cleaning and disinfecting protocol as with a confirmed case? (Wait 24 hours before disinfecting the room we had isolated the person in.) Is there are circumstance where we would need to shut down for a day or more?

**Answer:** Yes, follow the same cleaning and disinfecting protocol as with a confirmed case- especially because the status of the participant may not be known for some time. Best to use caution. As for situations where shutting down may be required, that would depend on the circumstances. One way to prepare for this event is to maintain a designated isolation room for this purpose, preferably a room with a door and ventilation to the outside. Please contact the VT Department of Health call center if you experience a person with symptoms or a confirmed case at **802-863-7240 (24/7)**.

5. **Question:** Should participants receive nebulizer treatments while attending Adult Day?

**Answer:** Currently, the CDC is uncertain whether aerosols generated from nebulizer treatments may be infectious. The VT Department of Health (VDH) recommends that centers consult with the participant's physician for recommendations. If an adult day center does not feel they are able to safely administer nebulizer treatments to a participant that requires treatment during attendance, the center may choose to limit attendance for this participant. If nebulizer treatment must be delivered while at the center, consider the following:

- Would it be possible to not have participants administer nebulizer treatments?
- What are the safety implications for that, outside of COVID?
- Can the center dedicate a "clean space" for administering medication that could be employed for persons needing a nebulizer?
- If assistance is required for participants that cannot administer an aerosol generating treatment on their own, an N95 respirator would be indicated, per the [April 8, 2020 VDH Health Advisory regarding PPE Guidelines](#).

6. **Question:** What is the transportation system for someone who arrives with symptoms or comes down with symptoms while at the center?

**Answer:** The Agency of Human Services, Department of Vermont Health Access has created a free transport system for people who are symptomatic or confirmed positive. First, safely isolate the participant at the center. Then call the VT Public Transportation Association (VPTA) at 1-833-387-7200 (7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., M-F). The VPTA will secure appropriate ambulance services that will transport the individual from the Adult Day center to home. Depending on where the ambulance service is dispatching from, it may take some time for the ambulance to get to the center. Once transportation has been notified, contact the VT Department of Health call center to report the positive symptoms at **802-863-7240 (24/7)**.



7. **Question: What infection control measures are required for public transit? How are volunteer drivers managing infection control?**

**Answer:** All public transit providers are required to follow CDC recommendations for infection control. That includes spacing riders, disinfecting and ventilation. Volunteer drivers are asked to follow the same standards; however, they are not direct employees, so the transit providers have less control over their actions. The Agency of Transportation and VT Public Transportation Association (VPTA) continue to work together to implement new and innovating ways to disinfect vehicles and keep riders safe. Please contact Elaine Haytko at VPTA at [ehaytko@vptaride.org](mailto:ehaytko@vptaride.org), if you need technical assistance working with your local transit provider.

8. **Question: Should a participant/staff member self-quarantine if they have a visitor (out-of-town quest) who has come from a high-risk area outside of Vermont?**

**Answer:** As long as masks and physical distancing are employed by the participant and their visitor(s), the participant would not need to quarantine. The VT Department of Health and Agency of Commerce and Community Development, have same guidance:

If you are hosting travelers under quarantine in your home or lodging, you do not also need to quarantine. If you are sharing space, stay at least 6 feet from the people under quarantine. People under quarantine should wear a mask in common spaces. Be sure to disinfect commonly touched surfaces and check yourself for symptoms for 14 days.

- Visitors from [certain approved counties](#) with low rates of active cases do not need to quarantine.
- Find more [travel and quarantine information](#) and answers to [frequently asked questions about travel](#).

9. **Question: Please clarify the physical space requirements (i.e., total square footage v. programming space, etc.).**

**Answer:** As of October 9, 2020, the guidance stands that the 1 person per 100 sq ft rule should be calculated based on the space that is used by the program. For example, if a program has an office upstairs that no one ever uses, it would not be included in the square footage. If the total square footage of the program space is 1000, then the total number of staff and participants is ten ( $1000 \div 100 = 10$ ). Once the occupancy is calculated, physical distancing of six feet needs to be employed among people. Current guidance is available on the [Agency of Commerce and Community Development COVID Work Safe](#) web page.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ONGOING UPDATES:**

- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Web Page](#)
- [VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development COVID-19 Resource Center](#)
- [VT Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living COVID-19 Web Page](#)
- [VT Department of Health COVID-19 Web Page](#)