

Questions and Answers for Developmental Disabilities Services

MAY 24, 2021 UPDATED ON JUNE 14, 2021

*Person is considered fully vaccinated means 14 days after vaccination final shot.

*Caregiver is defined in this document as an agency or contracted staff (who lives outside the person's home) providing a DDSD funded support.

Q1. When are face masks required?

A1. Face masking is required for:

- Anyone not fully vaccinated
- In a healthcare setting or facility regardless of the person's vaccination status
- When using public transportation regardless of the person's vaccination status
- In a correctional facility regardless of the person's vaccination status
- When providing services to an immunocompromised person regardless of the vaccination status of either person

Q2. Are there any situations where a fully vaccinated caregiver should consider wearing a face mask?

A2.

- If the person receiving services asks the caregiver to wear one, this request should be respected
- If the fully vaccinated caregiver is meeting numerous people face to face over the course of the day
- If the person receiving services requires hands on support for a long duration of time

Q3. Can agencies set their own policies around mandating a mask within agency buildings?

A3. Yes

Q4. Can agencies require a fully vaccinated caregiver care provider with cold/flu like symptoms to wear a mask?

A4. Agencies are responsible to decide when employees are required to wear a mask. Employees should stay home if they have signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Q5. Do home providers need to wear a face mask in their own homes?

A5. People living in the same household do not need to wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.

Q6. If a child in the household is unvaccinated due to his/her age, does a vaccinated caregiver need to wear a face mask when entering the home?

A6. No

Q7. Is there a limit to how many people can be transported at the same time?

A7. Fully vaccinated people are not required to stay 6 feet apart, but agencies should take in account any unvaccinated people in the vehicle, the health conditions of all people in the vehicle, and the support needs of people when deciding if the number of people in a vehicle should be limited below actual vehicle capacity.

Q8. Are face masks required when transporting more than 1 person?

A8. If there is an unvaccinated person in the car, this person must wear a face mask. Fully vaccinated people in the car may choose to wear one.

[Carpooling Factsheet \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Q9. What is the definition of an immunocompromised person?

A9. It is a person with a weakened immune system due to a medical or genetic condition. These conditions cause the person to be at a higher risk for severe illness and to have harder time fighting off infections even with the aid of medicines. The person's primary medical doctor should be consulted for recommendations for caregivers living outside the person's home to follow when providing support.

Information on some of these conditions can be found at [Types of Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases | NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases](#)

Q10. Who can agency nurses contact to ask questions about masking guidance?

A10. COVID19.HealthCareContactTracing@vermont.gov