



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Mental Health

25 Staniford Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2575

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

BROOKE DOYLE
Commissioner

(617) 626-8000
www.mass.gov/dmh

To: DMH Licensed Facilities & Interested Parties

From: Janet Ross, RN, MS 
Assistant Commissioner for Clinical and Professional Services / Director of Licensing

Date: November 7, 2022

Re: DMH Licensing Bulletin #22-01R – Clinical Competencies/ Operational Standards
Related to Infection Control in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Attached please find the revised DMH Licensing Bulletin #22-01 – Clinical Competencies/ Operational Standards Related to Infection Control in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This bulletin replaces DMH Licensing Bulletin #20-05R and all attachments related to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Facilities, terms which are no longer applicable. It also replaces the previous version of DMH Licensing Bulletin #22-01, which was issued on January 10, 2022. The information in this bulletin is intended to complement each hospital's internal infection control expertise. Among recent changes made are the following:

- Screening of all individuals entering hospitals may now be done through posted signage for self-screening. Visitors must be provided a facility-issued mask upon entry to the hospital. Visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while in the hospital and to perform hand hygiene when visiting a patient.
- A link to revised visitor guidance is included, as well as mask-wearing requirements and exceptions.
- The revised bulletin includes a link to revised DPH guidance regarding healthcare personnel with updated guidelines for returning to work after a COVID-19 infection. It also removes distinctions between healthcare workers in acute-care hospitals or other settings.
- References to quarantine areas on units have been removed. Any patients and staff who were exposed to any patient or staff confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and not

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

November 7, 2022

Page 2

recovered from COVID-19 in the last 30 days should be tested as soon as possible, but not sooner than 24 hours following exposure, on day 3 and day 5, and should wear a mask around others through day 10.

- A link has been provided for disinfectants that are effective against *Candida Auris* as well as SARS-CoV-2.
- Facilities may use any FDA EUA-authorized rapid antigen test to perform testing. Positive FDA EUA-approved rapid antigen test results no longer need to be confirmed with a molecular test.
- There have been some modifications of time frames and testing guidelines for individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and were either symptomatic or asymptomatic and have recovered per symptoms and time course for when they are considered to not be infectious and no longer require transmission-based precautions.

Free COVID At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests:

- The State is making at-home COVID tests available to providers free of cost, while supplies allow. Providers can visit bit.ly/covidtestrequestMA to submit a request for up to 1,800 tests. Requests will be processed on a first come, first served basis and delivered as soon as possible along with stickers noting extended expiration dates and treatment options. More information about at-home tests, including links to translated instructions, can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/using-a-covid-19-self-test>.

Thank you for all the work that you are doing to meet the needs of those in need of your services.

Questions regarding these new competencies/ standards should be directed to the DMH Licensing Division at 617-626-8117 or Teresa.J.Reynolds@mass.gov