

COVID-19 Update Jan 2022 Protocols, Visitation, & Other Guidance

Fidelity House CRC employees:

We are currently experience a surge in COVID-19 infections across the state. The surge is contributing to a series of infections in our group homes, leading us to implement quarantine protocols we have not needed to rely on in months. It is expected that the surge could last for weeks or even months, depending on how quickly we can flatten the curve through **vaccinations**, the use of surgical, KN95 or N95 **masks**, and general precautionary measures such as regular **handwashing** and **social distancing**.

The new Omicron variant is highly contagious. We know now that it spreads more easily than the original COVID-19 virus. CDC experts warn that anyone with an Omicron infection could spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated and/or show no symptoms.

Out of an abundance of caution during the surge, we are restricting visitation across all of our group homes .

Specific questions regarding visitation should be directed to a Senior Program Director.

If you have any suggestions for how Fidelity House CRC can enhance our health and safety practices during this time, I encourage you to bring ideas or concerns to your Department leadership. Thank you all so very much for your hard work. These are challenging times, and I sincerely appreciate all that you are doing to keep people healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Brad

Brad Howell
President & CEO

Program / Location Specific Guidance

Heritage Place (Admin Offices)

439 South Union Street
Suite 401 Lawrence, MA

Offices remain closed to the general public. Those employees who need access to the office must continue to get approval from their department head before going into the office.

All staff, individuals served, vendors and scheduled visitors will be required to wear masks while in common areas at Heritage. All are asked to socially distance while in the building.

Staff are asked to conduct meetings over zoom

Parkridge Rd (Day Program)

22 Parkridge Rd
Haverhill, MA 01835

All staff, program participants, vendors, and guests must wear surgical, KN95 or N95 masks while in the Parkridge Rd. building, even if vaccinated.

Social distancing guidelines remain in effect.

Persons served and staff are required to wear masks on community outings and in program vans, as well as in vans to/from the day program.

Staff are asked to use a combination of zoom and

whenever possible. In-person meetings are discouraged but if necessary would require the use of masks and social distancing.

The kitchen/lunchroom is open for use, but staff are asked not to congregate in those areas.

in-person meetings. In-person requires the use of masks and social distancing.

Landmark Building (Vocational/Youth)

Merrimack Street
Haverhill, MA 01830

Use of building will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

All staff, program participants, vendors, and guests must wear masks while in the building, even if vaccinated.

Staff are asked to conduct meetings over zoom whenever possible. In-person meetings require the use of masks and social distancing.

Classes, interviews, job coaching, and check-ins will continue to take place in person as long as mask use and social distancing are implemented.

Community Living

ISS, Shared Living, AFC, Group Homes

*Weekly COVID testing is now required for staff members working in a Fidelity House CRC group home and/or working in the Shared Living Department, regardless of vaccination status.

If you have not yet undergone regular COVID-19 testing, or you have any questions about the testing process, please contact [Meghan Fisk](#), Director of Nursing.

Masks are required while working in any program site, including a person's home.

Staff are required to wear surgical, KN95 or N95 masks when working in group homes.

A full explanation of COVID-19 guidance for Residential programs is outlined in the [Residential and Congregate Care Programs COVID-19 Guidance, updated January 3, 2022](#)

ISS, SL, and AFC staff members should connect with the Department Director regarding the specific protocols in place for these departments.

Children & Family Services

In-Person visits have been suspended for the month of January due the current spike in Omicron cases.

Home visits will take place virtually until further notice.

Training and Recreational/Leisure activities will also take place virtually for the time being

Please review the resources below to learn more about Omicron and ways to protect yourself and others.

[Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know | CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance and Directives | Mass.gov](#)

CHOOSE TO GET VACCINATED

PROTECT yourself, your family, your community, and help end the pandemic.



1. The vaccine will offer additional protection from COVID-19.
2. When entire communities get vaccinated, wear masks, social distance, avoid large gatherings, and wash their hands we'll have the best chance of ending the pandemic.
3. Initial vaccine quantities will be limited. Talk with your healthcare provider or local Medical Treatment Facility for more details about when vaccine will become available.

The vaccines available for COVID-19 have been proven safe and effective, are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and are being manufactured and distributed safely and securely.

For more information:



<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/vaccine.aspx>



For current COVID-19 information:

<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/covid19>
<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:
Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1
or visit <https://www.health.mil/1-Am-A/Media/Media-Center/1A1-Day-at-a-glance>

Emergency Kit Checklist for Families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/childreninadisasters/checklists/kids-and-families.html>



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Army Public Health

The Army COVID-19 Information Hotline:
1-800-984-8523
Overseas DSN 312-421-370
Stateside DSN 421-3700

TA-614-1220
12/21/2020

For more information, contact your installation's Department of Public Health
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

version 1.0

COVID-19 Vaccine Info

The Benefits of Vaccination:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

What to Expect at Your Appointment:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect.html>

Frequently Asked Questions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Join the FHCRC employees who received COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Provide documentation that you have received the second dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine to **Meghan Fisk**, Director of Nursing, and receive a \$25 Market Basket gift card from FHCRC in the mail.



Fidelity House Human Services & Career Resources Corporation

www.fidelityhhs.org

