



AUGUST 3, 2021

Re: Updated CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Delta Variant

Dear parents and colleagues:

Following the troubling surge of new cases related to the more infectious strain of the COVID-19 virus (Delta variant), the Centers for Disease Control has issued new interim guidance for individuals who have received a full vaccination with an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. This new guidance can be found on the CDC's website (**[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**). In response, Autism ETC will enforce an updated version of our Symptom and Exposure Protocol to reflect these new recommendations.

Updates to Mask Policy:

- All individuals entering the clinic will resume mandatory mask wearing **at all times while indoors at the clinic regardless of vaccination status**. Masks will be worn properly over the nose and mouth. Only medical exceptions will be allowed.

Updates to Screening Procedure:

Beginning today, all individuals entering the clinic will resume our normal Screening Procedure regardless of vaccination status. Clients and parents will continue to be screened individually by our staff, and staff will renew their pledge to daily self-screen. Once-daily temperature checks for all individuals will remain in effect.

- If an individual exhibits any of the symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (outlined in our Screening Procedure), they will be directed to isolate and seek testing immediately regardless of vaccination status or to seek guidance from a primary care physician.
- If a *vaccinated* individual is exposed to an individual known to have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, they will be permitted to remain in the clinic provided that no symptoms are present. **The CDC does not recommend that vaccinated individuals quarantine following a COVID-19 exposure, but it does recommend testing after 5 days from the exposure. Autism ETC will follow suit in this recommendation.** There is no change in guidance for unvaccinated individuals.

We understand these recommendations will be confusing. Please do not misinterpret this new guidance: COVID-19 vaccinations are safe and effective at slowing the spread of COVID-19 and are effective at preventing serious illness in the event of a break-through infection. These new steps are being implemented out of an abundance of caution and to protect you and your families. We hope this additional guidance for vaccinated individuals will be rescinded soon.

Vaccinations are now available to anyone in the US over the age of 12 years old, and we *highly* recommend all eligible individuals seek a vaccination appointment as soon as possible. Each additional vaccinated individual makes everyone a little safer. Our latest guidance can be found on our website (**[autismetc.com/covid-19](https://www.autismetc.com/covid-19)**). Thank you for your trust and patience as we continue this fight together. We wish you all health and safety.

Sincerely,

Autism ETC Executive Management Team

