



**JANUARY 3, 2022**

*Re: 2022 New CDC Guidance and Policy Changes*

Dear parents and colleagues:

Since our last COVID-19 policy communication just twelve days ago, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued several major updates in guidance. Autism ETC will now bring our policies into alignment with this new guidance by issuing four major updates:

- **Shortening of recommended quarantine period for asymptomatic individuals.**

On December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shortened its recommended time for isolation from the public. People that test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 5 days, and may discontinue isolation after day 5 if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours). Beginning immediately, Autism ETC will require a minimum 5-day quarantine for those who test positive for COVID-19, and will revert to the normal 24-hour illness policy beginning on day 5.

- **“Fully Vaccinated” individuals are required to receive booster shot of vaccine.**

Beginning immediately, individuals are not considered to be “fully vaccinated” if they are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (Pfizer or Moderna) or more than two months after the J&J vaccine. If an individual is not “fully vaccinated” under this new definition, they will be directed to follow Autism ETC’s Symptom & Exposure Protocol as an unvaccinated individual. Vaccine booster shots are free to receive and widely available. Autism ETC recommends that all eligible individuals receive a booster dose of vaccine as soon as possible.

- **Autism ETC guidance for the use of at-home COVID-19 testing.**

At-home testing is now widely available. Autism ETC will accept FDA-authorized at-home test results for both staff and clients following a known exposure to COVID-19. That is, if an individual is required to quarantine following an exposure to a COVID-positive individual, Autism ETC will accept an at-home test result in order to return to the clinic. A purchase receipt and a photo of the negative result will satisfy this requirement.

*HOWEVER*, a rapid antigen or PCR test will be required for those experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If an individual is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, an at-home test will not be accepted in order to return to the clinic.

- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

On November 5, 2021, OSHA issued an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that mandates vaccinations for all employees of private employers with greater than 100 employees. After some delay, the order is set to go into effect on January 10, 2022.

As a result, beginning on January 10, 2022, Autism ETC will require COVID-19 vaccinations for all employees without a protected exemption or require them to submit to a weekly COVID-19 test regardless of symptoms or exposures to the virus.

Thank you for your continued attention as we seek to protect our clients and staff and provide our world-class therapy services. We wish you all health and safety.

Sincerely,

Autism ETC COVID-19 Response Team

