



**DECEMBER 21, 2021**

*Re: Omicron Variant & Winter 2021 COVID-19 Updates*

Dear parents and colleagues:

As the second winter of this pandemic approaches, it is important to us that we keep you updated on the latest developments in the pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the control measures we have implemented and continue to refine. A new variant of the virus known as Omicron is currently circulating in the US. This variant is thought to be more transmissible than previous variants yet may cause less-severe illness. Autism ETC continues to monitor guidance as it becomes available from the Centers for Disease Control and local Health Departments, and we will update you with further changes to our COVID-19 policies should it become necessary.

Presently, all of our COVID-19 Policies & Procedures remain in place in each of our clinics.

These include:

- Daily health and temperature screening of all employees and clients
- Mandatory mask wearing at all times while indoors at the clinic
- Contact tracing upon receiving confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case in the clinic
- Mandatory adherence to the Symptom and Exposure Protocol for all affected individuals
- Enhanced sanitation, isolation, and symptom monitoring procedures
- Code Blue where necessary; further contingency plans at the ready

We realize that it can be difficult and frightening when you receive our Exposure Notification emails. We have created and refined our Symptom & Exposure Protocol over the past 18 months to help you in the decision-making process should you come into contact with COVID-19. Today, we are releasing a simple and straightforward version with simple yes/no questions to guide you. We are hopeful this will increase our response time and decrease confusion when symptoms or exposures occur.

We continue to encourage our staff members to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, and we encourage you and your families to do the same. Please consider receiving a Booster Shot per the recommendation of your healthcare provider to further protect yourself against becoming infected.

Vaccinations are now available to anyone in the US over the age of 5 years old, and we *highly* recommend all eligible individuals seek a vaccination appointment as soon as possible. Our latest guidance can be found on our website (**[autismetc.com/covid-19](https://autismetc.com/covid-19)**). Thank you for your trust and patience as we continue this fight together. We wish you all health and safety and a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Autism ETC COVID-19 Response Team

