

TDH recommends following [CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance](#). This document outlines additional considerations for implementing CDC guidance.

## HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

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### **Does the CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance apply to healthcare settings?**

No, this guidance does not apply to healthcare settings. CDC offers separate, specific guidance for healthcare settings ([COVID-19](#), [influenza](#), and [general infection prevention and control](#)) and [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#).

Healthcare settings refer to places where healthcare is delivered and include, but are not limited to, acute care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home healthcare, vehicles where healthcare is delivered (e.g., mobile clinics), and outpatient facilities, such as dialysis centers, physician offices, dental offices, and others.

### **When should healthcare settings consider broader use of masking?**

As described in [CDC's Core IPC Practices](#) and [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#), source control remains an important intervention during periods of higher respiratory virus transmission. Healthcare facilities are encouraged to identify local metrics that could reflect increasing community respiratory viral activity to determine when broader use of source control in the facility might be warranted. Some potential metrics to consider may include [Respiratory Virus Activity Levels in Tennessee](#) and the TDH [County Data Snapshot](#).

CDC continues to recommend that healthcare facilities institute masking when [masks are recommended in the community](#). CDC also [recommends](#) source control for cases or close contacts and during outbreaks and/or in high risk areas regardless of community transmission metrics.

## NON-HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

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### **Does the CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance apply to non-healthcare high-risk settings?**

Depending on the population served and level of risk for severe disease, non-healthcare high-risk settings (for example, Adult and Senior Care Facilities) may consider following healthcare personnel recommendations or may follow the recommendations that are applicable to community settings in the [CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance](#).

**Does the CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance apply to homeless service sites or correctional and detention facilities?**

Yes, the CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance applies to community settings, which includes non-healthcare portions of correctional facilities and non-healthcare portions of shelters for people experiencing homelessness. Healthcare workers who provide care in these settings should refer to the [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#).

## **CLUSTERS & OUTBREAKS**

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**Does the CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance apply to clusters or outbreaks?**

No, this guidance should not be used for outbreak management purposes. Public health will continue to investigate clusters in long-term care facilities and high-risk congregate settings. For more information please refer to the [COVID-19 Cluster FAQs](#).