DATE: March 31, 2023

TO: All Service Providers

FROM: Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco, General Manager
Department of Aging

SUBJECT: COVID-19 SAFETY PROGRAM GUIDANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE
This bulletin is effective upon issuance.

SUPERSEDES
This bulletin supersedes Information Bulletin Nos. 22-01 (issued October 21, 2022), 22-04 (issued on December 22, 2022), and the original 22-07 (issued March 30, 2023). Retain this Bulletin until further notice.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this bulletin is to share updated COVID-19 guidance directly affecting the Aging program and service provider locations.

ALERT NOTICE
The City of Los Angeles ended its COVID-19 Declaration of Local Emergency, effective February 1, 2023. On February 3, 2023, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Cal/OSHA’s semi-permanent COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations, which became effective immediately. The State’s emergency ending does not change employers’ COVID-19 obligations under Cal/OSHA’s regulation. Subsequently, the State ended its State Declaration of Emergency, effective February 28, 2023.

As a result of these declarations and communication with the City’s Emergency Management Department’s Public Health Liaison and City’s Recreation and Parks Department, the Department of Aging is rescinding its previous COVID-19 guidance on verification of vaccination status for the public and for participants at its contracted service provider facilities. Notwithstanding this change to safety standards, members of
the public, regardless of vaccination status, are required to follow all posted signage and safety protocols instituted by the site/facility.

**Vaccination**

Proof of Vaccination (public):
- Proof of vaccination will not be required for the public to enter indoor portions of City facilities effective immediately.

Employee Vaccination:
- All employees must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, or have an approved exemption

**Masking**

Face coverings are no longer required, including indoor, public transit and transportation hubs, but are strongly recommended to protect those persons at elevated risk for severe health outcomes due to COVID-19 infection.

- Employers are required to offer well-fitting medical masks and respirators, such as an N95, KN95, or KF94, at no cost to their employees who work indoors and have contact with other workers, customers, or members of the public, or in vehicles with more than one person.

- **Specific Higher Risk Settings**: Face coverings are not required at this time in the City’s shelters for people experiencing homelessness, emergency shelters, or cooling/warming centers. The CDC Community Levels shall be used to determine the masking requirements for these locations. When the County is in the "low" transmission level, face masks are not required. When the County is in medium or high transmission level, facilities must maintain or reinstate universal masking for all staff and residents, regardless of outbreak status within the facility.

- Face coverings are still required in the following workplace settings and conditions:
  - **During Outbreaks**: All employees in the exposed group when indoors, or when outdoors and less than six feet from another person, shall wear face coverings unless an exception applies (outbreaks are 3 or more connected positive cases in one location).
  - **COVID-19 Rebound Case**: Employees who ended their isolation period and begin to have symptoms again 2-8 days after the isolation period ended or after testing positive again must wear a mask both indoors and outdoors while around people for 10 days following the start of rebound.
  - **Other**: In any other location where masking/face covering is the policy of the facility, business, or venue.
Agency Orders: When the California Department of Public Health and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health require more stringent measures than these Standards listed above in this section.

Note: Employees are allowed to take off face coverings when alone in a room and vehicles; when actively eating/drinking indoors while maintaining physical distance; when performing specific tasks that cannot be feasibly performed with a face covering; or when required for accommodation reasons.

- In addition, masks are required when handling and serving food:
  - The facility must continue to adhere to all food safety practice listed in the California Food Safety Code (CRFC)
  - Gloves should be worn at all times while serving food. The gloves should be removed and hand hygiene must be repeated if the server steps away from the line or does some other task that is different

Transportation Services

The following modifications to the guidelines in transportation services is a result of the ending of COVID-19 emergency declarations.

- Masks are strongly recommended for riders using and drivers providing transportation services.
- Passenger capacity limit in transport vehicles is rescinded/lifted.
- When riding in vehicles with others, maximize the supply of outside air to the extent feasible, except when doing so would cause a hazard to employees and passengers or would expose them to inclement weather.

Prevention Reminder

As a reminder, if a staff member and/or participant is ill from any ailment or is experiencing symptoms of any illness, the employee should be allowed to work from home (if able) and the participant should be offered the opportunity to receive teleservices, as an alternative to in-person services. This will help protect fellow colleagues and constituents.

The guidance provided herein is subject to change in part based on federal, state, and county requirements and LA County CDC COVID-19 community level and transmission rate. Updates will be provided when available.

LADOA Contact

Questions or concerns pertaining to this matter, please contact Mr. Daniel Kim, daniel.kim@lacity.org.