

PVHH Respiratory Illness Policy for Worksites & Office

Approved by the Board of Directors January 28, 2025

BACKGROUND:

Covid-19 enhanced our awareness about the health risks of respiratory illness on our worksites and in our office. This policy seeks to provide a framework by which PVHH volunteers and staff can work as safely as possible given the significant relaxation of the more significant COVID-19 pandemic era precautions.

Evaluating Risk

Everyone should evaluate their own individual risks of contracting disease, including underlying medical conditions, living arrangements, and necessary contact with others who may be at increased risk. Nobody should feel any obligation to volunteer. Each person's primary concern should be their own and their family's safety.

PRECAUTIONS:

Vaccination

All staff and volunteers are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on their vaccinations (as defined by the CDC from time-to-time) .

Close Contacts

Persons who have had recent confirmed exposure to a person with a serious respiratory illness or contagious disease should wear a mask when working inside a worksite structure or in the office, or stay at home.

Illness

No staff or volunteer is permitted to come to a work site if they have one or more symptoms of a transmissible respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, severe fatigue, loss of smell and/or taste, unexplained diarrhea) until the symptom(s) have abated for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication.

Follow CDC guidance and precautions on when you can return after illness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

Masks

During times of high community transmission of respiratory illness (such as Covid-19, RSV, Flu, etc.) the Executive Director, in consultation with the Safety Committee, may mandate masks indoors.

Hand Sanitation

Regular handwashing is encouraged. Each worksite will have an adequate supply of hand sanitizer. If this is not the case, notify the supervisor.

Ventilation

In times of high community transmission of respiratory illness (such as Covid-19, RSV, Flu, etc.), mechanical ventilation should be used. Each floor of a house under construction may be equipped with an exhaust fan and incorporated ductwork that provides for regular exchanges of air. The blower

and duct should be tightly coupled to a window to ensure that all the air is blown directly outside. All other windows in that room should be closed, with a window in each other room on that floor kept partly open.

SUBCONTRACTORS:

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity encourages subcontractors (including vocational students) to be up-to-date vaccinated (as defined by the CDC from time-to-time). ***No subcontractor personnel are allowed to be on a worksite without first notifying and scheduling with Habitat management.*** If you have not scheduled your work with Habitat, please call to check with your Habitat contact for approval before entering the site.