



Office of the Ombudsman

Independent Health and Wellness Advisor
to the MA Department of Correction

Lauren M. Andersen, MM, RN, CEN, CCRN
Director/Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
ombudsman@umassmed.edu
<https://covidombudsman-madoc.org>
Free call: 833-662-8410

MAY 25, 2023

COVID-19 UPDATE TO DOC STAFF AND CORRECTION OFFICERS

Per both the Federal and Commonwealth of Massachusetts orders respectively, the COVID-19 emergency ended on May 11, 2023. Due to this change in status, the Office of the Ombudsman updated our COVID-19 standards accordingly. Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) staff and correction officer (DOC Staff) guidelines are now as follows:

1. If a member of the DOC Staff has a positive COVID-19 test, that person must remain home for five (5) days and have no further symptoms on return on or after day 6. The returning DOC Staff member must wear a mask while at work until day ten (10) after the onset of symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test.
2. If a member of the DOC Staff has COVID-19-like symptoms, they may self-test for COVID-19. If the COVID-19 test is negative, the DOC Staff member can work if feeling well enough but should be encouraged to wear a mask while at work for five (5) days or while symptoms are present.
3. COVID-19 bivalent vaccines remain available to all DOC Staff at every DOC facility.
4. Masks shall remain available for any DOC Staff member who chooses to wear one.

Despite the changes in COVID-19 standards, it is still important that we remain aware of COVID-19 and the risk of infection for ourselves and others.