



June 4, 2024

COVID-19 Update for Incarcerated Individuals

As of June 4, 2024, COVID-19 will be considered one of several viral respiratory illnesses and will no longer have separate standards or guidelines for those living or working in the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

COVID-19 will be considered in a grouping of other respiratory virus illnesses like flu or RSV.

- If an incarcerated individual has signs and symptoms of respiratory illness and presents with fever and upper respiratory congestion, that incarcerated individual may be tested for COVID-19.
- If an incarcerated individual is COVID-19 positive, that individual will be isolated for a minimum of five (5) days. If the symptoms are improving and fever is resolved on day five (5), then the incarcerated person will be released from isolation on day six (6). If the symptoms or fever continue, the incarcerated individual should be re-evaluated and released from isolation when improved or without fever.
- COVID-19 booster vaccinations will remain available to any incarcerated individual who requests one.
- Good hygiene habits continue to be encouraged, including:
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizer;
 - Cover mouth with elbow when coughing or sneezing; and
 - See Health Services if you are sick.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a long period of a virus that was high risk for anyone who is incarcerated. Gratefully, the most severe risk is no longer present. COVID-19 will continue to be one of many illnesses that we will monitor. Thank you for your attention to the guidelines and restrictions that were in place during the highest risk period, but as of this date, COVID-19 will no longer be considered separately from other respiratory illnesses.