

## Management of Positive Cases and Outbreaks

### Admissions:

- Screen new admissions for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Have a plan in place for where new admissions with symptoms awaiting testing or who test positive can safely stay without being excluded from services.
- New admissions are not required to quarantine on admission regardless of vaccination status.
- If an outbreak is recognized, there should be an effort to limit admitting clients who are not fully vaccinated until at least 14 days have elapsed with no new cases from the onset date of the most recent case. **Persons should not be turned away from the facility;** unless the facility has confirmed that the individual has an alternative safe place to stay.

### Staffing Considerations:

- Staff who are exposed to a COVID-19 case outside the shelter and are not fully vaccinated should be excluded from work for 14 days following the last exposure. Vaccinated staff should continue to work while masked and test at day 5-7.

### Case Isolation:

- Space individuals who test positive at least 6 feet away from other clients. Use screens to physically separate clients who test positive from those who don't. If possible, use a private room.
- There is no need to separate clients who test positive from each other. This is called cohorting.
- Refer clients with confirmed COVID-19 infection or suspected infections pending testing to the PDPH Isolation and Quarantine site. Submit a referral online at: <http://bit.ly/phliqreferral>. Space may not be immediately available, so please follow isolation instructions until transfer is possible.
- If a person's health status worsens, encourage them to call their provider for medical advice. If it is a medical emergency, call 911.
- Staff interacting with confirmed and possible COVID-19 cases in the shelter setting should wear surgical masks and eye protection.
- Consider having vaccinated and boosted staff provide care to clients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

### Outbreak Response:

- Promptly identify clients and staff who are close contacts of confirmed and suspected cases.
- Close contacts should be asked if they are willing to share their COVID-19 vaccination status and whether they have a recent history of COVID-19.
- Clients and staff who are not fully vaccinated and are close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases should be quarantined as soon as identified through 14 days from the last exposure to observe for development of COVID-19 symptoms.
- When COVID-19 activity is not widespread, ideally close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should stay in separate areas from infected persons and persons who have not been exposed.
- Fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine. Fully vaccinated clients should still be tested during testing clinics held in response to COVID-19 cases.
- Persons who have recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to the exposure do not need to quarantine or to be tested unless they have symptoms.

### Facility-Wide Actions:

- Maintain surveillance of clients and staff by monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. Schedule a testing clinic for all clients and staff regardless of vaccination status through the PDPH Outbreak Surveillance Coordinator working with your site.