

Infection control guidelines for COVID-19

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have been committed to the safety of our patients and staff. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released updated recommendations for protecting everyone from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, the flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Each year, respiratory viruses are responsible for millions of illnesses and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths in the United States¹. Taking steps such as staying up to date with COVID-19 and other vaccines and practicing hand hygiene are important ways to protect yourself, prevent infection, and reduce the risk of transmission in the dialysis center.²

Based on CDC guidelines, our plan for our patients is as follows:

- Notify your care team before you arrive at the center if you have a fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you have symptoms, are COVID-19 positive, or have been in close contact to someone with COVID-19, you will be required to wear a mask in the center. You may also need to receive treatment in a different area of the center.
- If you do not have symptoms and have not reported close contact to someone with COVID-19, wearing a mask in the center is optional.

We will closely monitor the spread of respiratory illnesses, including the prevalence of COVID-19, and will adjust our policies as necessary.

Being on dialysis, you are at a higher risk of infection so it's important to stay up to date on your vaccinations. Talk to your care team if you have any questions.

1. "Respiratory Virus Guidance." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mar 1, 2024. [cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html)

2. "How to Protect Yourself and Others." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Apr 4, 2024. [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)