



PERSPECTIVES
C O R P O R A T I O N



RESPIRATORY ILLNESS FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | Updated May 8, 2024

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#1 | Who should get a COVID-19 Test?

You should get tested for COVID-19 if:

- You have [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Even if your symptoms are mild and you're up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations, you should isolate at home and get tested.

Learn how to get a COVID-19 test at www.covid.ri.gov/detect/testing

The Perspectives Nursing Department will have limited ability to administer rapid tests while supplies last for those who are symptomatic.

#2 | How do I get fully vaccinated for Respiratory Virus Prevention?

- Immunizations are a core prevention strategy to lower risk from respiratory viruses.
- Core prevention strategies are important steps you can take to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses.
- For most people that means getting a current flu and COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults ages 60 years and older should talk to their healthcare provider about whether an RSV vaccine is right for them.
- To prevent severe RSV disease in infants, CDC recommends either the pregnant mother gets an RSV vaccine, or the infant gets an immunization with an RSV monoclonal antibody. Most infants will not need both.

[Learn more](#) about immunization for Respiratory Virus Prevention at cdc.gov



#3 | Am I required to wear a mask at a Perspectives location?

Perspectives does not require masks to be worn by employees or visitors unless you are working in a positive location or are 5 days post isolation period due to a positive test result.

Reminder for those choosing to wear a mask:

- **Disposable masks:** Should be used for one shift only and then disposed.
- **Fabric masks:** It is recommended these are washed daily.

Reusing N95/KN95 face masks:

Masks intended for reuse should be stored between uses in a clearly marked paper bag, this should be kept with the employee - not left at place of employment. One mask should never be shared between employees or PWS. An N95/KN95 face mask can be reused as long as it fits closely to the face.

CDC guidelines suggest reusing a mask no more than 5 times. Regardless of that, an N95/KN95 mask should be discarded immediately if it becomes soiled with bodily fluids.

#4 | When should I not go to work?

All employees who have symptoms of a respiratory illness, even if they are mild, and regardless of vaccination status should:

- Notify supervisor
- Not go to work
- Get a Rapid/PCR test if suspect COVID, Flu, or RSV
- Follow [CDC Guidelines](#) for preventing spread of a respiratory illness when you're sick.



#5 | What's the plan if/when an individual or employee is COVID, Flu o RSV positive?

The Perspectives nursing department continues to follow CDC guidelines and be in frequent contact with the Rhode Island Department of Health and Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) for updates.

Any employee or PWS who has had a positive viral test must wear a high-quality mask (proper fit over nose, mouth, & chin) for 5 days post their isolation period.

For employees working with a PWS who have tested positive:

- PWS should isolate in their bedroom if possible.
 - A N/KN95 mask should be worn by the PWS when leaving their isolation area
 - Set up a donning and doffing station outside the PWS isolation room
 - Staff should wear full PPE when providing personal care or when working in close proximity

- If the PWS will not isolate in their room:
 - Staff should wear a N/KN95 mask while working in the home during the PWS isolation period
 - Housemates should be encouraged to mask in their home during their housemates isolation period

Questions?

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