

Considerations for Modifying COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Correctional and Detention Facilities

June 22, 2021

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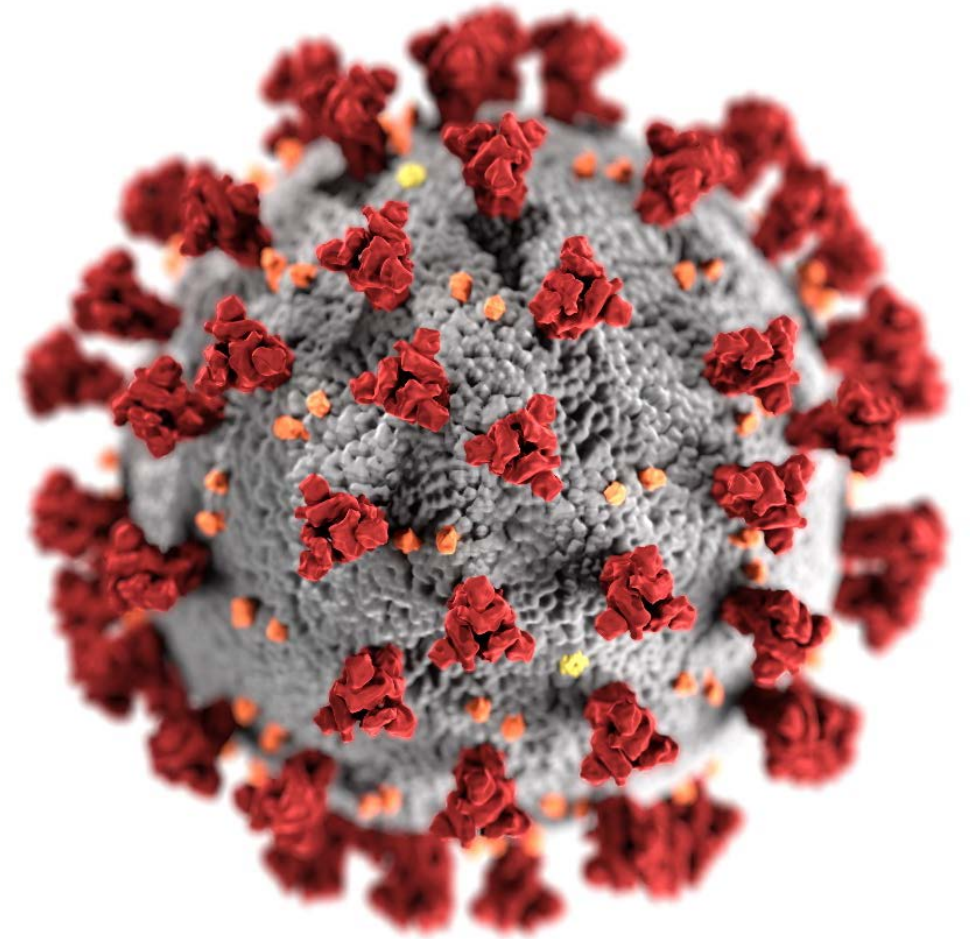
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This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as of June 22, 2021.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Please check the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) periodically for updated interim guidance.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

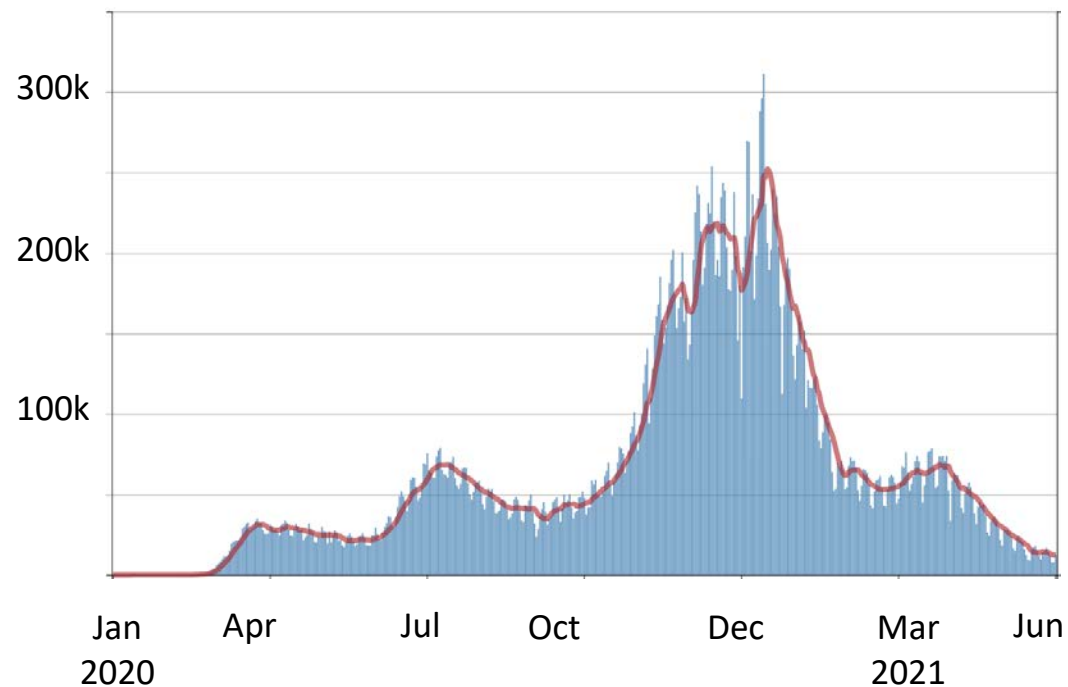
Agenda

- Current COVID-19 context
- CDC guidance on creating long-term COVID-19 prevention plans in correctional and detention facilities
 - Applying CDC's guidance for fully-vaccinated persons
 - Indicators for modifying facility-level COVID-19 prevention measures
- Q & A



Current COVID-19 context

Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases
in the US Reported to CDC



- Declining cases
- Increasing access to vaccination
- Strong vaccine performance against known viral variants
- Vaccine confidence challenges (staff and incarcerated people)
- Continued identification of new variants
- Vaccine breakthrough infections



Unique COVID-19 challenges in corrections

- **High risk of viral introduction**
 - Contact between people from different parts of the facility, state, country
- **High risk of rapid transmission**
 - 24/7 congregate living
 - Difficulty enforcing prevention policies (masking, physical distancing)
- **High risk of severe illness**
 - High prevalence of conditions associated with severe COVID-19 illness
- **Unique risks to mental health from prolonged COVID-19 prevention measures**
 - Repeated, lengthy periods of quarantine
 - Reduced programming and visitation
 - Minimal ability to make individual decisions



Risk Balance

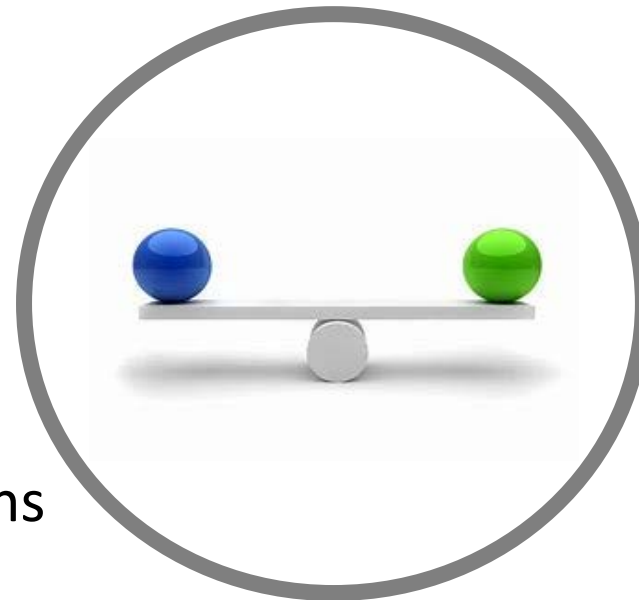
Designing a long-term COVID-19 prevention plan in corrections

SARS-CoV-2 transmission

Severe illness

Death

Post-COVID-19 conditions



Mental health

Quality of life

Operational needs

Institution's mission

CDC Guidance

Considerations Modifying COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Corrections

Released June 9, 2021

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>

Stratify prevention measures based on vaccination status

- More conservative approach

Modify prevention measures for everyone at the same time, based on local data

- When vaccination status is unknown
- When it is not operationally feasible to stratify based on vaccination status
- When there is higher risk tolerance



Baseline COVID-19 Prevention Strategies to Continue

Regardless of transmission or
vaccination coverage



Maintain basic infection control

Handwashing, cleaning, and disinfection



Track cases in the community

Be prepared for intermittent outbreaks



Restrict symptomatic staff from working

Prevent introduction of the virus



Continue diagnostic testing, movement-based testing

Prevent introduction, identify outbreaks early



Conduct prompt case investigation and contact tracing

Prevent transmission and reduce risk of outbreaks



Plan for isolation and quarantine

Know where isolation and quarantine spaces will be if there is an outbreak, and be ready to scale up

COVID-19 Prevention Strategies that Could be Modified

Based on local context



Routine symptom screening and temperature checks

For people with no known exposure



Administrative quarantine

At intake, before transfer and release



Mask policies



Group activities

Education, programming, rec, meals



In-person visitation



In-person community contact

Court appearances, work release

Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Based on vaccination status (1 of 2)

Someone is “**fully vaccinated**” 2 weeks after receiving a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine or completing a 2-dose vaccine series

Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Based on vaccination status (2 of 2)

If vaccination status of incarcerated people and staff is known:

Fully vaccinated people no longer need to:

- Quarantine at any time if asymptomatic (after exposure or at intake, transfer, or release)
- Wear masks outdoors
- Participate in **random** screening testing

Fully vaccinated people can safely:

- Resume group activities with other vaccinated people from other housing units
 - Group programming, education
 - Group recreation
 - Group meals
 - In-person visitation

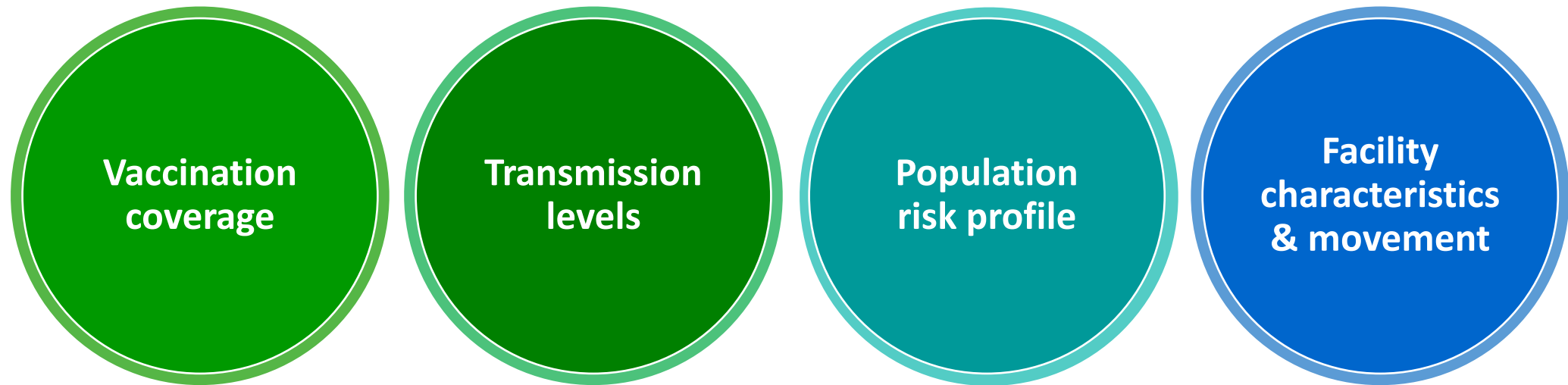
Fully vaccinated people STILL need to:

- Be tested routinely at intake and before transfer/release
- Be tested once after exposure
- Wear masks indoors

Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Regardless of vaccination status (1 of 5)

4 key indicators to guide prevention modifications:



Consider these factors together to decide when and how to loosen or strengthen COVID-19 prevention measures

Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Regardless of vaccination status (2 of 5)



**Vaccination
coverage**

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and prevent infection and severe illness
- Staff vaccination helps prevent introduction of the virus into a facility
- High vaccination coverage is critical in congregate settings
- Data are not yet available to set a threshold

Keep prevention measures in place longer where vaccination coverage is low

COVID-19 Vaccination Resources for Corrections

Working or living in a prison or jail puts you at a **higher risk of getting COVID-19.**

Vaccines are safe and effective.
Get a vaccine as soon as you can!



What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 shot may cause side effects in some people. Side effects should go away in a few days.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

In the rest of your body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Nausea



Ask the facility healthcare provider (or facility staff) for help if:

- The redness or pain where you got the shot gets worse after 24 hours
- Your side effects are worrying you
- Your side effects do not seem to be going away after a few days

HELPFUL TIPS

If you have pain, headache, or fever, ask a healthcare provider (or facility staff) if you can have medicine.

If you are sore where you got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
- Use or move your arm gently

If you have a fever:

- Drink a lot of water
- Get plenty of rest
- Dress lightly



Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Regardless of vaccination status (3 of 5)



Transmission levels

- Viral transmission inside the facility (current, historical)
- Ability to respond rapidly to cases to prevent outbreaks
- Community transmission (county-level data: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>)

Keep prevention measures in place if there is transmission in the facility

Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Regardless of vaccination status (4 of 5)



Population risk profile

- Older age
- Medical conditions associated with high risk of severe COVID-19 (chronic lung disease, cancer, diabetes)

Keep prevention measures in place longer where there is a high proportion of unvaccinated people at higher risk (staff and incarcerated people)

Populations at increased risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>



Modifying COVID-19 prevention measures in corrections

Regardless of vaccination status (5 of 5)



Facility characteristics & movement

- Housing styles
- Occupancy level
- Ventilation
- Movement in and out, and across facility

Keep prevention measures in place longer where physical distancing and optimal air exchange are hard to maintain

Tools to improve ventilation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>



Each facility is unique – prevention is not “one size fits all”



Creating a Plan

to loosen COVID-19
prevention measures
incrementally

VACCINATE as many staff and incarcerated people as possible

LIST existing COVID-19 prevention measures

PRIORITIZE which to loosen first

CONTINUE TESTING to monitor for transmission

WAIT to see if there is an increase in cases

EVALUATE the data collected

REINSTATE prevention measure if cases have increased

CONTINUE the plan to loosen the next prevention measure on the list if there is no transmission

Why Keep Testing?

Case data are critical to make your approach evidence-based:

- Determine what is working and what isn't
- Know when you need to pivot
- Share best practices with the field
- Know what works for next time



DATA



KNOWLEDGE



ACTION

Finding our way forward

COVID-19 Corrections Unit
eocevent366@cdc.gov

Let us know if we can help you:

- Apply CDC guidance to your facility
- Develop a long-term COVID-19 prevention plan
- Design testing strategies
- Respond to outbreaks





Q & A

Contact us with questions: eocevent366@cdc.gov

