

The Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) and Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) continue to work closely, with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to keep PDP Covid protocols up to date.

Federal cessation of the Covid emergency allows for the following PDP Covid protocol updates:

- Masking due to Covid is no longer required.
- Masks will be used as medically necessary, e.g., in the Infirmary, and N95's are required for healthcare workers when interacting with COVID positive or suspected COVID positive Incarcerated Persons (IP).
- Masks may be required if infections recur within PDP or community infection levels rise again.
- Employees and Incarcerated Persons may wear a mask if they wish.
- Healthcare workers are encouraged to wear a mask at the request of an IP during a visit.
- PDP will continue to provide Covid vaccinations to the incarcerated population.
- The CDC recommends that everyone over age 3 be vaccinated and continue receiving boosters.
- The Healthcare Worker Vaccine mandate is still in effect.
- Frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer along with routine cleaning of workspaces are strongly encouraged.

It has been a long three years! PDP followed CDC and PDPH guidelines stringently and as a result suffered very few hospitalizations. Still, Covid protocols were a major burden for all staff. I thank you whole heartily for your patience and diligence during the pandemic and ask that you follow current guidelines here and at home to preserve the health of family members, incarcerated persons, the community and most importantly, you.

Commissioner Blanche Carney