

COVID-19 Update



May 21, 2021

*We continue to actively monitor the situation regarding the most recent coronavirus, known as COVID-19. In an attempt to keep you informed about the latest developments, we are sending out regular communication such as this to provide updates and answers to frequently asked questions. **We encourage you to share these updates with all members of your team, especially those who may not have regular access to email.** The latest all-employee communications and updated responses to FAQs can be found at:*

<https://www.kindredhealthcare.com/employees/covid-19-updates>.

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this week's update finds you safe and healthy. As we look toward the summer months ahead, there has been no shortage of encouraging news related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. [The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) report](#) the current seven-day average of total reported cases is down nearly 24% from the prior week, and hospitalizations are down over 12% in the same timeframe. While vaccination rates are plateauing around the country, the CDC estimates that approximately 48% of the total U.S. population have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and nearly 38% of Americans are fully vaccinated. At Kindred, more than 73% of our team members have received the first dose of the vaccine, with more than 70% fully vaccinated. While it is important not to get overconfident or complacent when it comes to the threat of the virus, current trends indicate that the summer will bring with it a sense of cautious optimism that life in the U.S. will soon feel more normal than we may have anticipated a few short months ago.

Updated CDC Guidance on Masks – What it Means for our Care Settings

Last week, the CDC announced updated guidance regarding mask usage. In short, the CDC's new guidance states:

- If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you participated in prior to the pandemic.
- Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Fully vaccinated people are still required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation.

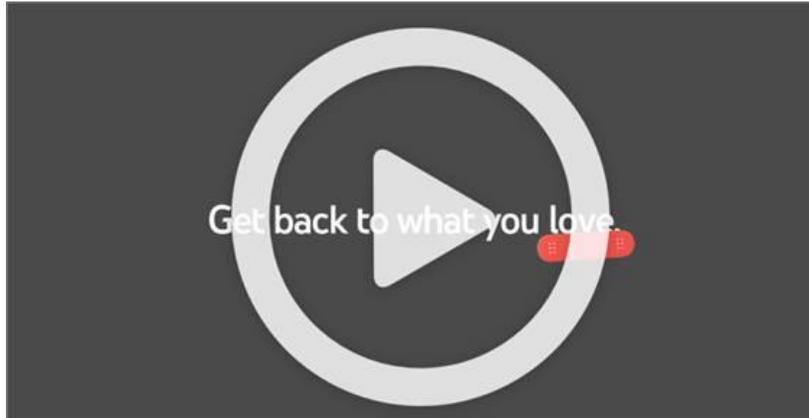
Obviously, this is a promising development that speaks to the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the U.S., and is an encouraging sign that life is starting to return to normal for fully vaccinated Americans.

However, it is important to note that you still need to follow the masking and distancing policies and protocols in place at your location, which includes the continued requirement for everyone to wear a mask at our Kindred hospitals and other care settings. In addition, all team members who work in a partner hospital or care setting should continue to adhere to the masking policies set forth by our partners.

Please [visit the CDC's website](#) for more information on the latest guidance on masking outside of work.

Get Back to What You Love

With the recent change to masking guidance for fully vaccinated Americans, there are more reasons than ever to roll up your sleeve, get vaccinated, and get back to all the things that you love:



[Get Back to What You Love](#)

For Jacqueline Carver, RN at Kindred Hospital Melbourne, her decision to get vaccinated included making sure she's doing her part to protect the patients who place their trust in her.

"I wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine because I work with and care for a vulnerable patient population," Jacqueline said. "I want to do everything possible to protect my patients and those I love."

Everyone has something to look forward to as Americans do their part to help end the pandemic. **We want to know what you are most looking forward to doing when "normal" is normal again. Send a short email to social@kindred.com describing the things you can't wait to get back to doing**, and we will feature some of your submissions in future editions of this newsletter and in other communications (please be sure to include your name, title, and where you work).



Thank You to our Business Continuity Teams

The week of May 17-21 is widely recognized as Business Continuity Awareness Week, a week that gives us the chance to acknowledge the important work that goes into ensuring businesses are prepared to deal with and recover from the countless factors that could disrupt normal operations. This week provided a great opportunity to recognize the dedicated professionals performing this work for Kindred at our Support Center, Central Billing Offices, Central Admission Districts, and other sites of service.

As we've seen over the last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the work these teams do is vital to ensuring our company can respond quickly to any challenges that arise so our caregivers can remain focused on what they do best – caring for the patients who place their trust in us. Tami Johnson, Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer for Kindred, shared a message earlier this week that I wanted to highlight here for all of you. Tami wrote in part:

“During this crisis, we continued to care for highly complex patients, administered over 30,000 vaccinations, were able to conduct onsite COVID-19 testing, all while providing valuable service in our communities. While it has been hard work, our collective preparation paid off.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to not only our frontline caregivers but also to our Support Center colleagues who kept our systems working. As a team we continued to provide exceptional care and operate without pause or disruption. Finally, to our team that helps us prepare for the unexpected disaster, emergency, or event, we appreciate your commitment to keeping Kindred strong even in challenging times. “

On behalf of the entire Kindred team, I want to reiterate the sentiment at the heart of Tami’s message and thank all of our dedicated support professionals who work diligently to help ensure our systems, facilities, and infrastructure remain strong and resilient. We appreciate all you do year-round to support our operations and empower our caregivers to deliver hope, healing, and recovery to our patients.

Submit Your Questions About the Vaccine

As a reminder, we have an email box where you can submit questions related to COVID-19 and the vaccine that you would like to see answered in a future edition of this newsletter. Please submit your question to COVID19EmployeeQuestions@kindred.com.

As always, thank you for all you do for our patients, our partners, and each other.

Regards,

Ben Breier
Chief Executive Officer
Kindred Healthcare

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

Kindred has established a dedicated mailbox (COVID19EmployeeQuestions@kindred.com) to collect and answer any questions you may have.

For the full list of the most current responses to frequently asked questions and other updates, please check the following page on a regular basis: <https://www.kindredhealthcare.com/employees/covid-19-updates>