

Dear volunteers,

In June of 2021, ICGMC implemented a Re-Opening Transition Policy for volunteers serving in the home and providing transportation, shopping, or errand assistance. The Policy divided services into Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 allowed for resumed services in cases where both the volunteer and care receiver were fully vaccinated. Level 2 restricted intakes and service delivery in cases where either the volunteer or care receiver is not fully vaccinated.

In recognition of the end of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in May 2023, and the current CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19 isolation, testing, and treatment, ICGMC is officially ending the Re-Opening Transition Policy, effective immediately.

What does this mean for you?

1. Information about a person's vaccination status will no longer be collected. Group leaders completing intakes for new care receivers should cross out the question on the form or skip it. New forms will be made available soon.

2. Vaccination status will no longer be used to determine eligibility for services or for volunteering. Any volunteers or care receivers placed on hold due to vaccination status can now be re-evaluated and can begin providing or receiving services.

3. COVID-19 is still around and has the potential to cause significant illness, and should be monitored in the way that outbreaks and symptoms of flu, pneumonia, or any other serious viral infection is monitored:

- Continue to assess the locations where you are providing in-person care giving services. Do these locations still pose a risk, including medical facilities, indoor settings with large unmasked groups of people, etc.? In these higher risk settings/situations, please mask as required by the facility.
- Please also assess whether you or your care receiver still have household vulnerability due to:
 - Either you or your care receiver live with a medically vulnerable family/household member.
 - You are visiting or providing caregiving to medically vulnerable family/household members not living in your household.

In these situations, masking and distancing is advisable. If you or your care receiver are more comfortable wearing your masks for any service activity, please wear one.

- Continue to follow the general health and safety guidelines outlined in the volunteer manual:
 - For your own health, and that of the care-receiver, always wash your hands before and after a visit, especially after shaking hands. The single most effective means for preventing the spread of infection is hand-washing 15-20 seconds in hot soapy water.
 - Consider carrying hand sanitizer to use before a visit.

- Do not visit your care-receiver if you have a cold, respiratory infections or fever.
- Gastrointestinal viruses are especially debilitating to the elderly, and volunteers with symptoms of such illnesses should not visit the care-receiver.
- Let our care-receiver know if you are sick and unable to visit, and contact your Group Leader to find a replacement volunteer. Care-receivers have been asked to inform their volunteers should they have a communicable illness. You are not expected to visit under that circumstance.