

Disability Day Services Guidance Update as at 11th March 2022

The following queries were clarified in the course of the AMRIC Webinar on March 11th 2022.

***** Please note further update on mask wearing received on May 23rd on Page 2.

- 1) Does the pod structure still have to operate in day service locations. ? (service users feel that it's unfair for them to be restricted in mixing with their friends in the location as they currently must stay in their pod)

The pod structure is no longer required in disability day services.

- 2) Does social distancing still apply to day service locations?

1m physical distancing where practical is recommended in disability day service settings.

- 3) Do staff and service users still have to wear masks in the day service location? *****

Staff in day services are required to wear FP2 masks. Service users are required to use masks only when they can tolerate the use of the mask and use them appropriately

- 4) If Yes - do staff and service users have to wear masks when they are accessing other community services and locations?

When staff are supporting people to access community based services it is not mandatory that they wear a mask but they may do so if they prefer. This is the general guidance for the whole of population when accessing community services.

- 5) Does day service transport still need to be risk assessed in terms of the capacity allowable?

Day Service Transport should operate at full capacity except where risk assessment indicates otherwise.

- 6) Do service users and staff need to wear masks on transport?

FP2 masks should be worn by staff on day service location transport when accompanying service users to and from locations and to access community services.

- 7) Is it permissible to have visitors, external contractors to day locations operate on the whole of society guidance ie. they do not have to socially distance or wear masks or should the management of day services still operate restrictions with visitors?

Yes visitors and external contractors are permitted to access day service locations provided there is a checking protocol that ensures that people are not symptomatic and that they conform to the location guidelines eg hand sanitising, mask wearing etc.

Mask Wearing Guidance received on May 23rd 2022

The following guidance refers to all disability day service locations and supersedes the mask wearing guidance outlined above as at 11th March 2022.

Healthcare workers in low risk settings when caring for those who do not have suspected or confirmed COVID 10 can revert to wearing a surgical mask. Recognising that health care workers' preferences are an important consideration, respirator (FFP2) masks should continue to be available to healthcare workers in all settings, although they are not required.

The Disability Day Service Resumption Group has been stood down as of May 24th 2022 but should further changes in Public Health Guidance occur that impact on disability day services, guidance will issue out to all day service providers via Umbrella Bodies and the local CHO structure.