

PVHH Covid-19 Policy for Worksites

APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 8/23/22

BACKGROUND: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to present a significant health risk, although vaccination and appropriate distance precautions can mitigate this danger. This document seeks to provide a framework by which PVHH volunteers and staff can work as safely as possible. Following these practices will minimize, but cannot completely eliminate the risk of exposure to Covid-19 on a PVHH worksite.

PRECAUTIONS: *All staff and volunteers, including construction, non-construction and future homeowners, must be up to date on their Covid-19 vaccines to work at or visit a PVHH worksite (construction site or office). "Up to date" is defined by the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>*

Persons who have had recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person and are asymptomatic should wear a mask for the next 10 calendar days when indoors at a Habitat worksite.

No staff or volunteer is permitted to come to a worksite after they test positive for Covid-19, unless and until the volunteer has completed a 10-day isolation period and after the cessation of symptoms.

No staff or volunteer is permitted to come to a work site if they have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of smell and/or taste, unexplained diarrhea) until the symptom(s) have abated for at least 48 hours without use of fever-reducing medication. Testing for Covid-19 ≥ 5 days after exposure or onset of symptoms is recommended.

If a staff person or a volunteer learns that they may have been COVID-19 positive on a work day, they must notify Executive Director Megan McDonough as soon as possible for contact tracing purposes.

Everyone should evaluate their own individual risks of contracting the disease, including underlying medical conditions, living arrangements, and necessary contact with others who may be at increased risk. Nobody should feel any obligation to volunteer. Each person's primary concern should be their own and family's safety.

REQUIRED PRACTICES: Do not come to a PVHH work site unless you have signed up on VolunteerUP (for shared workdays); or have received specific clearance from the work site coordinator, for individual, separate tasks. We intend to limit the number of volunteers working on a single day to facilitate safe distancing. The exact number will vary, depending on the tasks at hand and current circumstances. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Safety Committee, will determine the precise number.

During times of high spread of Covid-19 the Executive Director in consultation with the Safety Committee may mandate masks indoors.

Whenever possible, maintain a distance of more than 3 feet between individuals.

Each worksite will have an adequate supply of hand sanitizer. If this is not the case, notify the supervisor. Frequent hand sanitization is strongly encouraged.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED PRACTICES WHEN INDOORS:

When are you indoors during construction? Work within the walls is still considered outdoors when all windows and doors are opened widely, and sheetrock has not been installed on interior walls. This section of the policy addresses the situation that pertains once floors are divided by interior sheetrock.

Each floor of a house under construction will be equipped with an exhaust fan and incorporated ductwork that provides for regular exchanges of air. The blower and ducts should be tightly coupled to a window to ensure that all the air is blown directly outside. All other windows in that room should be closed. Open the upper portion of each window in all the other rooms.

Volunteers and/or staff working together in the office when unventilated and in close proximity masks are encouraged.

When subcontractors are working inside, PVHH volunteers will not work inside the house, except that brief (less than 15 minutes) masked interactions between volunteers and subcontractors for the purpose of coordinating or inspecting work will be permitted. After a subcontractor works inside the house, volunteers should wait 12 hours before working inside OR run ventilation for at least one hour before working inside.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

For public events, exceptions to the implementation of this policy may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive Director in consultation with the Safety Committee.

SUBCONTRACTORS:

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity encourages subcontractors (including vocational students) to be vaccinated for Covid-19 but does not track or require vaccination. The following rules should be shared with subcontractors before they begin work at a Habitat work site:

1. ***No one is allowed to be on site without first notifying and scheduling with Habitat.*** If you have not scheduled your work with Habitat, please call to check with your Habitat contact for approval *before* entering the site.
2. Except for brief, masked consultations with a volunteer, no subcontractor personnel shall enter any building on a Habitat worksite after vertical drywall has been installed, when any Habitat volunteer(s) are in the building.
3. **Notify Habitat immediately if you or any of your personnel who visited our worksite test positive for Covid-19 within 7 days after being on site.**