



## Public Health Update Guidance for the Use of Face Masks in Healthcare Facilities October 20, 2022

### Situation

On September 23, 2022, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention updated the interim infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. This update recommends the use of the Community Transmission metric to guide infection and control practices involving face masks and testing <sup>1</sup>.

### Recommended Actions

The recommended actions below are applicable to all settings in Clark County where healthcare is delivered. If Clark County community transmission levels <sup>2</sup> are medium, substantial, or high, facility recommendations include:

Clinical settings: (includes waiting areas and check-in areas)

- Universal masking for all staff and residents regardless of vaccination status or the absence or presence of an outbreak in a healthcare setting when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter patients.
- Continued use of posters/signs recommending mask use for patrons/patients when positive/symptomatic/known contact Must have a screening process to assess for signs/symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and for exposure to others with known or suspected COVID-19.
- All healthcare facilities should be in adherence of the CDC's Infection Prevention and Control recommendations for Healthcare Personnel during the Covid-19 Pandemic <sup>1</sup>.

Entry area and other non-clinical areas:

Consider continued screening of patrons entering to ensure they are aware of recommended actions (i.e., mask wearing) to prevent transmission when symptomatic or a known close contact

- Continue to offer masks to visitors (or allow them to use their own well-fitting)
- Staff may wear masks but not required
- Staff will continue to be required to wear a mask in non-clinical settings when:
  - Exposure within the last 10 days
  - Exhibiting any respiratory symptoms

If the community transmission level is low, and there have been no outbreaks (3 or more cases within 14-days among epidemiologically linked residents and/or staff) in the facility, masking will be optional in non-clinical areas of healthcare facilities including but not limited to administrative areas, dining and visitation areas where only staff may have access.

If the community transmission level is low masking would still be recommended for the following:

- Persons suspected or confirmed to have COVID or other respiratory infection
- Close contacts to COVID cases
- Work in an area experiencing a COVID outbreak
- Provide direct patient care to immunocompromised individuals

Additional resources:

- 1) CDC Updated Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID Data Tracker, Community Transmission Levels by County. [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list\\_select\\_state=all\\_states&list\\_select\\_county=all\\_counties&data-type=Risk&null=Risk](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=Risk&null=Risk)
- 3) Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health Care Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic. <https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhngov/content/Resources/TB-COVID-Updated-IC-HCP-10-11-2022.pdf>
- 4) NRS 439.873 Designation duties and qualifications of infection control officer; required ratio of patients to employees with certain training in infection control; Division to provide education and technical assistance. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-439.html#NRS439Sec860>
- 5) Department of Health and Human Services Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Technical Bulletins [https://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical\\_Bulletins-New/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical_Bulletins-New/)



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**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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