

WORKPLACE MASK GUIDANCE DURING COVID-19



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Effective Date: May 23, 2023

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Purpose	To provide workplace mask guidance during times when SARS-CoV-2 is circulating in the community regardless of vaccination status (i.e., being up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination) or prior infection history.						
Scope	NYC Health + Hospitals						
Guidelines	<p>NYC Health + Hospitals will continue to monitor community transmission levels of COVID-19 such as tracking emergency department influenza-like-illness visits and COVID-19 hospitalization rates, and adjust masking guidance, as needed. Please note, if community transmission levels for COVID-19 begins to increase, masking and other PPE requirements may be reinstated in areas where masking is currently optional.</p> <p>Inpatient Healthcare Settings Includes all emergency departments, medical/surgical units, intensive care units, neonatal intensive care units, hematology/oncology units, transplant units, etc.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 961 1442 1644"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="360 961 630 1024"></th> <th data-bbox="630 961 1442 1024">Mask Guidance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="360 1024 630 1486"> All Staff (includes employees, affiliate agency, contractors and vendors) </td> <td data-bbox="630 1024 1442 1486"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is mandatory with a well-fitting mask during <u>ALL direct clinical care encounters</u>. Masking is optional* in all other areas (including, but not limited to, workstations, administrative areas, staff conference rooms, meeting spaces, hallways, breakrooms, elevators) UNLESS the staff member has a suspected or confirmed respiratory infection, including SARS-CoV-2 (e.g., runny nose, cough), or is within 10 days of high-risk exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2, in which case masking is still <u>required</u>. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="360 1486 630 1644"> Visitors </td> <td data-bbox="630 1486 1442 1644"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking for all visitors above the age of 2 is required in all patient care areas. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Mask Guidance	All Staff (includes employees, affiliate agency, contractors and vendors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is mandatory with a well-fitting mask during <u>ALL direct clinical care encounters</u>. Masking is optional* in all other areas (including, but not limited to, workstations, administrative areas, staff conference rooms, meeting spaces, hallways, breakrooms, elevators) UNLESS the staff member has a suspected or confirmed respiratory infection, including SARS-CoV-2 (e.g., runny nose, cough), or is within 10 days of high-risk exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2, in which case masking is still <u>required</u>. 	Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking for all visitors above the age of 2 is required in all patient care areas.
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Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking for all visitors above the age of 2 is required in all patient care areas. 						

Outpatient/Ambulatory Healthcare Settings

	Mask Guidance
All Staff (includes contractors, students, and vendors and volunteers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is mandatory with a well-fitting mask during <u>direct clinical care encounters</u> when dealing with patients with moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and/or treatments. Masking is optional* in all other areas and patient care interactions, UNLESS the staff member has a suspected or confirmed respiratory infection, including SARS-CoV-2 (e.g., runny nose, cough), or is within 10 days of high-risk exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2, in which case masking is still <u>required</u>. Clinic leadership may also choose to maintain mask requirements in areas/designated spaces they deem necessary.
Visitors	Masking for all visitors is optional in all areas (including during direct clinical care encounters).

Central Office Locations and MetroPlus Building Locations

	Mask Guidance
All Staff (includes contractors, students, volunteers and vendors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masking is optional in all areas UNLESS the staff member has a suspected or confirmed respiratory infection, including SARS-CoV-2 (e.g., runny nose, cough), or is within 10 days of high-risk exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2, in which case masking is still <u>required</u>.
Visitors	Masking for all visitors is optional in all areas.

**At all times, when wearing a mask is optional, our staff should be cognizant of and sensitive to the possibility that they may be in close proximity to someone who is at high risk for, or vulnerable to COVID-19. This applies not only to the work environment, but also in the home environment where there may reside with members of the family who are at*

high risk due to age (very young or elderly), immunocompromised state, or on immunosuppressive medications, or otherwise vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection. Thus, it is important to be respectful of one's choice to wear a mask when not required.

Definitions	Direct Clinical Care Encounter	Any direct face-to-face interaction or being present in the same enclosed room between a patient and a healthcare personnel for the purpose of providing healthcare-related service(s), assessing the health status of a patient, or engaging in a social visit.
	Moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatments	<p>Refers to patient(s) with either a condition or who is receiving treatment that results in a moderate to severe immunocompromised status. The CDC has provided guidance on these conditions/treatments.</p> <p>Moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatments include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies ▪ Hematologic malignancies associated with poor responses to COVID-19 vaccines regardless of current treatment status (e.g., chronic lymphocytic leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, acute leukemia) ▪ Receipt of solid-organ transplant or an islet transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy ▪ Receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppressive therapy) ▪ Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., common variable immunodeficiency disease, severe combined immunodeficiency, DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome) ▪ Advanced HIV infection (people with HIV and CD4 cell counts less than 200/mm³, history of an AIDS-defining illness without immune

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		<p>reconstitution, or clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV) or untreated HIV infection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., 20 mg or more of prednisone or equivalent per day when administered for 2 or more weeks), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory (e.g., B-cell-depleting agents) <p>Reference: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#immunocompromised</p>
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Approved by: Machelle Allen, MD Senior Vice President
System Chief Medical Officer 5/23/23

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Previous Versions of this Guidance

Signature	Title	Date
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 1 – May 26, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 2 – June 8, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 3 – August 16, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 4 – November 29, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 5 – December 1, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 6 – March 10, 2022
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 7 – May 18, 2022
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 8 – February 16, 2023
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 9 – May 23, 2023