

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Colleague Article - Updated CDC
Safety Guidance for Healthcare Settings



Audience: All Colleagues

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COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Communications

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Updated CDC Safety Guidance for Healthcare Settings

We continue to follow CDC, OSHA and other authority guidance on safety requirements for our locations. Recently, the CDC updated its guidance for locations where health care services are delivered. We reviewed the updates and revised our safety guidance. Here is an overview of the key updates:

Visitors

- **Masking is required** for everyone visiting the location when the [COVID-19 Community Transmission rate](#) is high.
- **Masking is encouraged** for everyone including visitors or patients who are immunocompromised.

Colleagues

- **Masking is required:**
 - When the [COVID-19 Community Transmission rate](#) is high at that location *or*
 - If local public health authorities require it *or*
 - If you are caring for immunocompromised patients *or*
 - If you are working in designated areas of the facility (ex: ED) *or*
 - If you must enter the facility and have any COVID-related symptoms
- **Masking is encouraged:**
 - For anyone who feels more comfortable due to personal risk assessment *or*

- When the [COVID-19 Community Transmission rate](#) for that location is not high
or
- When the [COVID-19 Community Transmission rate](#) is high at your location and the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) is *not* high, you may choose not to mask in well-defined areas restricted from patient/visitor access (ex: conference rooms)

Please follow all local safety protocol, which may be more stringent than these guidelines due to local public health authority requirements.

Colleagues working in administrative locations where health care services are NOT delivered such as System Office buildings should continue following separate safety requirement communications. Continuing care colleagues should also follow separate safety requirement communications.