

Florida Appropriate Use of Masking Policy

Target Group:		Original Date of Issue:	Version
Cleveland Clinic Florida		Not Set	1
Approved by:	Date Last Approved/Reviewed:	Prepared by:	Effective Date
Board - Ambulatory, Medical Executive Committee, Weston	08/03/2023	Georgia Sands (Infection Preventionist)	08/03/2023
Coral Springs, FL ASC/FHC:		Martin Health:	
MEC/CSOC approval date: 08/03/2023 Board approval date: 08/03/2023 Effective Date: 08/03/2023		MEC approval date: 08/03/2023 Board approval date: 08/03/2023 Effective Date: 08/03/2023	

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.

Purpose

To ensure the health and safety of our patients, employees, and visitors, Masks will be required under special circumstances, such as when a patient, visitor, or employee is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

Policy Statement

Cleveland Clinic Florida recognizes that communicable diseases pose an infection risk to patients, visitors, and employees. This policy applies to all patients, visitors, and employees two years of age and older.

This policy does not apply to the use of personal protective equipment that are recommended and/or required for chemical or physical hazards.

Definitions

Cleveland Clinic Florida: Includes Weston Hospital, Coral Springs Ambulatory Surgery Center, Martin North Hospital, Martin South Hospital, Tradition Hospital, and all Physician practice sites, Coastal Care Corporation, Emergency Departments, Express Care Centers, Urgent Care Centers and ambulatory facilities reporting to these facilities.

Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP): A licensed provider acting within their scope.

Visitors: Any person visiting any of the Cleveland Clinic Florida locations that is not a Patient or an employee.

Masks: Any cloth or surgical face mask, or any other facial covering that covers the

mouth and nose that is compliant with Cleveland Clinic Florida's current Masking guidelines.

AHCA: Agency for Healthcare Administration

Policy Implementation

A. Patients

In the event that Cleveland Clinic Florida requires the use of Masks, Patients may be required to wear a Mask in the common areas of the Cleveland Clinic locations if the Patient is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

Any patient may opt out of a Masking requirement unless doing so would infringe upon the right of another patient or is medically or programmatically contraindicated for documented medical, safety, or programmatic reasons.

B. Visitors

In the event that Cleveland Clinic Florida requires the use of Masks, Visitors may be required to wear a Mask if the Visitor is:

1. Exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
2. In any sterile areas of a Cleveland Clinic Florida location, including where surgeries or procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed;
3. In an in-patient or clinical room with a Patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission; or
4. Visiting a Patient (i) whose treating health care provider has diagnosed the Patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase the risk of transmission of an infection to the Patient from others without signs or symptoms of infection; and (ii) whose treating provider has determined that the use of a facial covering is necessary for the Patient's safety.

Visitors may opt out of wearing a Mask if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.

C. Employees

Employees should avoid entering the facility if they are sick. Employees who are sick should contact their immediate supervisor and the Occupational Health Office.

Cleveland Clinic Florida locations must allow any Employee to opt out of any Masking requirements unless the Employee is:

1. Conducting sterile procedures;
2. Working in a sterile area;
3. Working with a patient whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees

without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety;

4. With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation; or
5. Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

Employees must wear an FDA-certified medical/surgical Mask or NIOSH-approved respirator in the above enumerated circumstances.

D. General

Cleveland Clinic Florida reserves the right to require the use of Masks in other circumstances consistent with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.

Regulatory Requirement/References

- A. Fla. Stat. § 408.824 ([SB 252](#))
- B. Fla. Stat. § [381.026](#) (Florida Patient Bill of Rights)
- C. Fla. Admin. Code 59AER23-1 ([Definitions Rule](#))
- D. Fla. Admin. Code 59AER23-2 ([Standards Rule](#))
- E. OSHA Rules 1. Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#))
- F. Personal Protective Equipment ([29 CFR 1910.132](#))
- G. Respiratory Protection ([29 CFR 1910.134](#))
- F. [Conditions of Participation Infection Control Worksheet](#) – See tag 1.A.3. – “The Infection Control Officer(s) can provide evidence that the hospital has developed general infection control policies and procedures that are based on nationally recognized guidelines and applicable state and federal law.”
- G. Joint Commission
 1. [Hospital Respiratory Protection: Resources and Projects | The Joint Commission](#)
 2. Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit ([osha.gov](#))
- H. [CDC Prevention strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings: Guidelines and Recommendations.](#)

Oversight and Responsibility

Infection Prevention is responsible to review, revise, update, and operationalize this policy to maintain compliance with regulatory or other requirements.

It is the responsibility of each hospital, institute, department and discipline to implement the policy and to draft and operationalize related procedures to the policy if applicable.