UPDATE REGARDING MASKING REQUIREMENTS IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES – OCT. 18, 2022

Masking continues to be a vital component of HonorHealth's COVID-19 prevention precautions. As we approach the typical respiratory season, masks are an additional tool used to reduce the likelihood of spreading or contracting other infectious diseases like influenza and the common cold.

We continue to use standard precautions (the minimum infection prevention practices that apply to all patient care, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status of the patient, in any setting where healthcare is delivered) during all patient interactions. Current CDC guidelines recommend masking in patient areas in healthcare facilities to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 18, masking is **still required** in all healthcare facilities.

Masking is not required in:
- Cafeterias
- Breakrooms
- Non-patient facing office areas
- Conference rooms

Masks must be worn at all times in the following situations:
- Individuals that have had close contact or a high-risk exposure to someone with a diagnosed COVID-19 infection, for 10 days after their exposure.
- Team members returning to work after a diagnosed COVID-19 infection. Those returning to work after day five must wear a mask between day six and day 10, even if asymptomatic.
- Working on a unit or area of the facility experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak. Masking could be discontinued once no new cases have been identified for 14 days.
- Public health authorities recommend masking based on a unique situation.

Universal masking may be reinstated under any of the following conditions:
- Marked increase in HonorHealth's COVID-19 hospitalization rate.
- Marked increase of COVID-19 infection among team members.
- Marked increase or change in COVID-19 community level status to high.

Everyone should stay up to date on their recommended vaccines and boosters, and know their personal risks related to COVID-19.

Team members and clinicians should not report for duty when ill and will have close contact with other team members or patients. If an individual believes their respiratory symptoms are related to a non-infectious cause, they should wear a mask while working in close contact with others.

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