

## LEE HEALTH POLICY & PROCEDURES

<b>MASK AND FACIAL COVERING REQUIREMENTS IN LEE HEALTH FACILITIES</b>		<b>LOCATOR NUMBER</b>																					
<b>T Y P E</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>System-wide</b> - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) that applies to every employee throughout the System.  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary</b> - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) that applies to more than one discipline and is usually of a clinical nature. <b>Check below all areas to which this applies.</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Departmental</b> - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) exclusive to a particular department or group of people within a department at one or multiple locations that does not impact any other area.	<b>CHAPTER: S11</b>  <b>TAB: 00</b>  <b>POLICY #: 544</b>																					
<b>Disciplines / locations to which this interdisciplinary policy applies:</b>																							
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Radiology</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Home Health</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Rehab Hospital</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehab Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
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<b>Date Originated:</b> 7/23	<b>Reviewed/No Revision:</b>	<b>Dates Revised:</b>																					
<b>Next Review Date:</b> 7/25																							
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<b>Reviewed by:</b>																							
<b>Clinical Practice Council:</b>		<b>Date:</b>																					
<b>Clinical Education Council</b> <b>Yes</b> <b>No:</b>		<b>Education Completed:</b> <b>Date:</b>																					
<b>Education Plan Required:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Date:</b>																					
<b>Approved by:</b>																							
<b>Policy Administrator:</b> <b>Stephanie H. Stovall, MD, FAAP, FIDSA</b>		<b>Date:</b> <b>7/26/2023</b>																					
<b>As Needed:</b>																							
		<b>Date:</b> _____																					

### PURPOSE:

Provide system-wide standards compliant with the Florida Department of Health and Agency for Healthcare Administration rules for use of masks or facial coverings for all Lee Health locations.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Lee Health Locations** - All Lee Health owned or affiliated sites

**Lee Health Staff** - Includes all employees, students, residents, vendors, independent contractors, volunteers and members of any Lee Health medical staff who provide care or services to Lee Health or patients at a Lee Health location

**Masks** - Any cloth or surgical face mask, shield, or other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose that is compliant with Lee Health infection prevention standards and masking guidelines

**Patients** - Individuals receiving or requesting treatment, care or other services at any Lee Health location

**Visitor** - Any individual who enters a Lee Health location that is not a patient or member of Lee Health Staff

## POLICY:

To ensure the health and safety of our patients, employees, and visitors, face 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. This policy applies to all patients, visitors, and employees two years of age and older. Facial covering and other PPE recommendations and/or requirements may be reviewed and reassessed with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations in the event of a community outbreak. The standards and protocols in this Policy will govern in the event that the hospital encourages or requires the use of facial coverings at any of its locations. Unless otherwise noted, all other hospital policies, procedures, and guidance that encourage or require the use of facial coverings are subject to the standards, protocols, and provisions herein. This policy does not apply to the use of personal protective equipment that are recommended and/or required for chemical or physical hazards.

## PROCEDURE:

- A. In the event that Lee Health requires the use of facial coverings, patients may be required to wear a mask in the common areas of the hospital 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.
- B. Visitors are discouraged from entering a Lee Health location if they are having symptoms suggestive of illness unless they are coming to request care. In the event that the hospital requires the use of facial coverings, visitors may be required to wear a facial covering if the visitor is:
  1. Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
  2. In any sterile area of a hospital location, including where surgeries or procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed.

3. In an inpatient or clinical room with a patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed 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.
- C. Lee Health staff should avoid entering the facility if they are sick or contact their immediate supervisor to safely leave if become sick at work. Lee Health Staff will be required to wear an FDA-certified medical/surgical mask (ASTM F2100) or NIOSH-approved respirator if they are:
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 and 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
  5. Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards
  6. Are at a higher risk of experiencing and transmitting seasonal influenza or other respiratory viral illnesses during a known outbreak per infection prevention recommendations.
- D. Lee Health reserves the right to require the use of masks at Lee Health locations in other circumstances consistent with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.
- E. In the event that Lee Health encourages or requires the use of masks at any of its locations, visitors, patients, and Lee Health staff may opt-out from wearing masks as follows:
1. If an alternative method of infection control is available, patients and visitors may opt-out of any existing facial covering requirements by notifying a staff member who will contact Infection Prevention, and such request will be reviewed consistent with Lee Health infection control procedures.
  2. Lee Health staff may request to opt-out of any mask requirements by notifying Infection Prevention, and such requests will be reviewed by Lee Health's Infection Prevention team.

- F. Notwithstanding the opt-out provisions herein, in the event that Lee Health requires the use of masks at any of its locations, the following exclusions shall apply:
1. If there are no alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention, a patient may not opt-out of any facial covering requirements in the following circumstances:
    - a) A patient has been diagnosed or is exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
    - b) Opting-out has been identified by a provider as being medically or programmatically contraindicated for medical, safety or programmatic issues; or
    - c) Opting-out would otherwise infringe on the rights and would risk the safety or health of other patients, individuals or staff/employees of Lee Health.
  
  2. If there are no alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention, a visitor may not opt-out of any facial covering requirements in the following circumstances:
    - a) The visitor has been diagnosed or is exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
    - b) Opting-out would otherwise infringe on the rights and would risk the safety or health of other patients, individuals, or staff/employees of hospital; or
    - c) There are no alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention.
  
  3. An employee may not opt-out of any facial covering requirements if the employee is:
    - a) Conducting a sterile procedure, including aseptic procedures or surgeries, that call for practices that minimize the risk of microbial contamination to reduce the rate of invasive or surgical site infection;
    - b) Caring for a patient or being present while sterile procedures are being performed, including aseptic procedures or surgeries;
    - c) Working in a sterile area of any Lee Health location, including where surgeries or procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed;
    - d) With a patient who is on droplet or airborne isolation;
    - e) Working with a patient 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 mask is necessary for the patient's safety; or

- f) Engaging in potentially hazardous activities that require a facial covering to prevent infection, injury, or harm in accordance with national, state, and industry standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.

Lee Health reserves the right to consider other exclusions from the opt-out provisions in order to comply with applicable state and federal laws, rules, requirements and regulations.

## **REFERENCES:**

Fla. Stat. § 408.824 (SB 252)

Fla. Stat. § 381.026 (Florida Patient Bill of Rights)

Fla. Admin. Code 59AER23-1 (Definitions Rule)

Fla. Admin. Code 59AER23-2 (Standards Rule)

OSHA Rules; Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030); Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910. 132); Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910. 134)

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.”

CDC Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings: Guidelines and Recommendations.