

**Resident Health Services Manual
Policies & Procedures**

**SUBJECT: APPROPRIATE USE OF FACIAL COVERING
 FOR INFECTION CONTROL**

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PURPOSE:

To establish a policy for facial coverings in order to protect and support the health and safety of team members, visitors, and residents from transmission of infection at Mease Life (The Cedar, The Magnolia, The Acacia and The Oaks)

POLICY:

To establish procedures identifying the need for appropriate use of facial coverings for infection control or infectious disease prevention.

Note: In the state of Florida this policy will be posted on the Mease Life website, available to Mease residents, Mease visitors and team member breakroom (or other community designated area) available to team members.

DEFINITION:

Facial covering means a cloth or surgical facemask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.

PROCEDURE:

Residents residing in The Cedar or The Acacia or those receiving treatment in the wellness areas will be required if able to wear a facial covering only when the resident is in a common area of the health care setting and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

Residents, Visitors, and Healthcare Workers (HCW) may choose to wear source control at any time. However, Mease will require source control to be worn by team members in the community healthcare setting for the following:

A. Reside or work on a unit or area of the community experiencing an outbreak of respiratory infection; universal use of source control could be discontinued as a mitigation measure once the outbreak is over.

B. Have symptoms of a respiratory infection or are positive for a respiratory virus

C. Had close contact (resident, cohabitant and/or visitors) or a higher-risk exposure (HCW) to SARS-CoV-2 for 10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) after exposure

D. Reside or work in a community where, based on risk assessment, care is provided to higher-risk populations during periods of higher levels of community respiratory virus activity (September-April) and when otherwise recommended by public health department

a. N95 respirator is recommended for all health care team members providing service within the level of care where the outbreak is actively ongoing.

E. HCW that have a Mease approved medical or religious exemption for not receiving the influenza vaccine are required to wear a mask – N95 (preferred), surgical mask is an acceptable alternative during the respiratory illness/Flu season beginning with date of Mease annual Flu shot deadline and ending April 30th.

NOTE: Health Care Workers/Facility Team Members (HCW):

- All new and existing team members in Mease health care settings (HCS) (Wellness Suite, Therapy, Cedar, Acacia, Magnolia), including the following categories active in these settings as well as independent living if direct care is provided
- ALL Outside Licensed Health Care Workers
- Students
- Trainees
- Volunteers
- Any individuals who provide direct care or treatment in the community and/or for community residents under contract or other arrangement with Mease.

Visitors will be required to wear a facial covering when a visitor is:

(a) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission,

(b) visiting an area where sterile procedures are being performed,

(c) In the resident room or wellness center with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission

(d) Visiting a resident in The Cedar or The Acacia who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or any other upper respiratory disease which is known to increase the risk of transmission of an infection to team members or visitors.

OPT-OUT OF USE (Florida):

In accordance with the Florida Resident Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026, F.S. health care practitioners and health care providers who choose to require a facial covering for any resident shall include in the policy a provision for the opting-out of wearing a facial covering.

1. Residents who reside in The Cedar, The Acacia, The Magnolia, or are receiving medical treatments in the wellness center may opt out of wearing a facial covering unless the resident is:
 - (a) In a common area and shows signs or symptoms or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission. of a respiratory illness indicating droplet or airborne illness
2. Visitors and team members can opt out of wearing a facial covering if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.
3. Team members in The Cedar, The Oaks, The Magnolia or Wellness center may opt out of facial covering requirements unless the HealthCare Worker (HCW) is:
 - (a) Conducting sterile procedures, i.e., wound care, respiratory assessment and/or treatment, providing care under transmission-based or enhanced barrier precautions.
 - (b) Providing direct care to a resident whose has been exposed or confirmed with COVID-19 or any other upper respiratory disease/illness in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection.
 - (c) With a resident on droplet or airborne isolation, or enhanced barrier precautions or engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.