	Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Inc. Visitor and Care Partner Visitation General	<i>Policy Number</i>	VISIT004
		<i>Effective Date</i>	07/25/2023
	<i>Subject</i> Facial Coverings for Patients, Visitors, Medical Staff and Employees	<i>Page</i>	1 of 4
		<i>Supersedes</i>	N/A

This document applies to the following Participating Organizations:

All Children's Health System, Inc. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Pediatric Physician Services, Inc. (FL) SurgiKid of Florida, Inc.
 West Coast Neonatology, Inc.

Keywords: face covering, face mask, flu, mask, Mask, opt out

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I. PURPOSE


This policy addresses when it is appropriate for the organization to require facial covering for patients, visitors, medical staff and employees.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This policy allows the organization to require facial coverings only in certain circumstances – this includes persons exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease, areas of the facility that are designated sterile, or if the applicable person will be around a particularly vulnerable patient.
- B. 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.
- C. This policy is in compliance with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030), Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910.132), and Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134) standards.
- D. For questions regarding facial covering requirements:
 1. For families and visitors contact the patient's health care team
 2. For medical staff and employees contact your immediate supervisor

III. DEFINITIONS

Employee	Health care practitioners, medical staff, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, vendors, students, and volunteers
Airborne Precautions	This category of isolation precautions is used for patients with diseases that are caused by very small (5 microns) airborne organisms, which ride currents of air or dust particles. Transmission can occur by inhaling air in the patient's room. (Examples of diseases for Airborne: Tuberculosis, SARS, Smallpox, Chicken Pox, Measles.)

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Droplet Precautions	This category of isolation precautions is used for patients with diseases with certain respiratory microorganisms transmitted by large particle droplets. Large particle droplets can be generated by the patient when coughing, sneezing, talking and undergoing procedures involving the respiratory tract. Transmission can occur by direct contact, by contact with droplets over short distances (3 feet), and by contact with articles recently contaminated with respiratory secretions. They may contaminate the caregiver's eyes, nose, or mouth (mucous membranes). (Examples of diseases requiring Droplet precautions may include such conditions as Adenovirus, Croup/ Bronchiolitis, Influenza, Mumps, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Neisseria meningitidis, RSV, Pertussis, Parvovirus, Rubella, Streptococcal infections, Covid, Tuberculosis or Measles.)
Visitor	Any person in a health care setting who is not an employee or patient.
Facial Covering	Any cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose that is compliant with Hospital's current masking guidelines.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Facial coverings are required by all medical staff, employees and visitors entering the room of a patient who is on droplet or airborne isolation precautions unless otherwise instructed.
 1. Visitors who live in the home or are household members of the patient may not be required to wear facial coverings while in the patient's room.
- B. Examples of settings/situations which require facial coverings
 1. Any area where a sterile procedure is conducted, while sterility needs to be maintained, including but not limited to the Operating Room, the patient's bedside, Interventional Radiology, Sterile Processing
 2. Any Employees caring for or Visitors who may or may not be exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness will require facial covering for those patients identified by the treating health care providers/practitioners to be immunocompromised or at high risk of transmission of an infection.
 3. Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards
 4. Facial covering are required for Employees or health care providers who are showing signs and symptoms of an upper respiratory illness but are fever-free

V. OPT-OUT OF FACIAL COVERING PROCEDURES

- A. If an alternative method of infection control is available, Patients and Visitors may opt-out of any existing facial covering requirements by notifying a physician/APP, and such request will be reviewed consistent with Johns Hopkins All Children Hospital's infection control procedures.
- B. Employees may be considered to be granted permission to opt out of any facial covering requirements by notifying their immediate supervisor, and such requests will be reviewed by the Administrator on Call (AOC). The AOC may seek guidance from Infection Prevention on a case-by-case basis.
- C. 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:
 1. A Patient has been diagnosed or is exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
 2. Opting out has been identified by a provider as being medically or programmatically contraindicated for medical, safety or programmatic issues; or

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3. Opting-out would otherwise infringe on the rights and would risk the safety or health of other patients, individuals or staff/employees of Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.
- D. 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:
1. The Visitor has been diagnosed or is exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
 2. Opting-out would otherwise infringe on the rights and would risk the safety or health of other patients, individuals, or staff/employees; or
 3. There are no alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention.
- E. An employee may not opt-out of any facial covering requirements in the following circumstances:
1. If the employee is 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;
 2. While caring for a Patient or being present while sterile procedures are being performed, including aseptic procedures or surgeries;
 3. While working in a sterile area of any Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital location, including where surgeries or procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed;
 4. When with a Patient who is on droplet or airborne isolation;
 5. While 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 Facial covering is necessary for the Patient's safety; or
 6. While 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.
 7. If compliance with federal laws and regulations require the employee to be masked

VI. EDUCATION



Patients with potentially transmissible infectious agents will be identified so that the patient, visitors, and employees can be educated to use the correct precautions to prevent disease transmission.

VII. SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

- Florida Statute 381.00316, 4
- OSHA Rules
 - Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030)
 - Personal Protective Equipment (29 CFR 1910.132)
 - Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134)

VIII. APPROVAL

Electronic Signature(s)	Date
Allison Messina Medical Director Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	07/25/2023

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