

GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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MEMO 23-02

TO: Administrator, DON, Medical Director/NPs, Psychiatry, MDS Coordinators & QA Committee Members

FROM: Mary Gracey- White RN, BSN, QCP Director of Regulatory Compliance

DATE: February 10, 2023

RE: NYSDOH Guidance for Use of Face Masks and Face Coverings in Health Care Facilities

Please be advised that NYSDOH has decided to allow the *NYS Commissioner's Determination on Masking in Certain Indoor Settings* to expire on Feb. 12, 2023.

As per NYSDOH Facilities need to follow [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) outlined below:

- When SARS-CoV-2 [Community Transmission](#) levels are high, source control is recommended for everyone in a healthcare setting when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter patients.
- **Community Transmission Map** can be found on our website, or you can locate following this link: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=New+York&data-type=Risk
- When SARS-CoV-2 [Community Transmission](#) levels are **not** high, healthcare facilities could choose not to require universal source control.
- Staff could choose not to wear source control when they are in well-defined areas that are restricted from resident access (e.g., staff meeting rooms) and [Community Levels](#) are not also high. When [Community Levels](#) are high, source control is recommended for everyone.
- **Current CDC masking recommendations apply regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status and are based on [Transmission Levels](#), not [COVID-19 Community Levels](#).**

Facilities need to review and revise current Policy/Procedures related to masking. Active Screening for Covid 19 continues to be a requirement. Please review CMS Memo 20-39 (dated 9-23-22) attached to this memo.

Important to note is that Influenza is currently widespread in NYS and the Flu mask regulation is in effect that states any staff member that has not received Influenza vaccine must wear a mask.

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/providers/prevention_of_influenza_transmission/.

Please contact GNYHCFA If you have questions or need additional information.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Fnursing-home-long-term-care.html.