



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

ALERT

COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO CLINIC PROVIDERS

To: Health care Providers

Fax number:

From: Marion County Health & Human Services

Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: **10/05/22**

Regarding: **CDC Guidance Updates, Oregon Masking and Vaccine Requirements Still in Effect for Health Care Settings**

Phone number for follow-up: (503) 588-5621

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Dear Health Care Facility Partners,

On September 23, 2022, CDC updated the following infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance documents for U.S. health care settings:

- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control: Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic | CDC](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 | CDC](#)
- [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages | CDC](#)

CDC guidance updates have been made to reflect the availability of vaccines, treatments, and prevention tools and intend to provide continued protection measures for patients and health care workers. These updates include, but are not limited to the following:

- In general, asymptomatic patients no longer require quarantine following close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2.
- In most circumstances, asymptomatic health care personnel no longer require work restriction following close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2.
- Testing frequency in exposed individuals without symptoms has been updated to reflect variants with shorter incubation periods and to address the risk for false negative antigen tests.
- Options provided to ensure all entering a health care facility are aware of actions that can prevent spread of SARS-CoV-2.
- CDC has updated circumstances when universal source control (i.e., masking) is recommended. Health care facilities should be aware of other state masking requirements that apply, including Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) **Masking Requirement in Oregon Health Care Settings** ([OAR 333-019-1011](#)).

Health care facilities are reminded that:

- [Community Transmission remains high in almost all of Oregon](#), and hospital capacity throughout the state remains strained. Layered IPC measures are key to preventing spread of COVID-19 in health care settings.
- OHA Masking Requirement in Oregon Health Care Settings ([OAR 333-019-1011](#)) remains in effect. **Masks are still required in health care facilities, regardless of the current COVID-19 Transmission Level or Community Level.** See [Health Care Setting Masking Requirement FAQ](#) for additional information.
- OHA COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Health Care Providers and Health Care Staff ([OAR 333-019-1010](#)) also remains in effect. See [Health Care Provider and Health Care Staff Vaccine Rule FAQ](#) for additional information.
- Assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and nursing facilities licensed by Oregon Department of Human Services are considered health care settings by OHA and these facilities continue to be subject to OHA's masking and COVID-19 vaccination requirements. These facilities should adhere to infection control measures in [CDC guidance for health care settings](#).
- Despite relaxation of entry screening procedures, health care facilities should continue to have policies and procedures in accordance with CDC guidance to prevent the introduction and healthcare-associated spread of SARS-CoV-2, including:
 - Instructing health care personnel to discuss a positive COVID-19 test, symptoms of COVID-19, or a higher risk exposure to COVID-19 with their facility's occupational health contact so that these personnel can be appropriately managed and avoid spread to others.
 - Providing guidance (e.g., posted signs at entrances, instructions when scheduling appointments) to patients and visitors about actions to take if they have symptoms of a positive test for, or recent exposure to COVID-19.

Visitors to health care settings are reminded that they should avoid coming into health care settings while ill, even if testing negative for COVID-19. Visitors with confirmed COVID-19 or close contact to someone with COVID-19 should defer non-

urgent in- person visitation. Visitors should follow health care facility visitor policies to reduce the risk of spread of respiratory viruses, including SARS-CoV-2. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep patients and our health care workforce safe.