

<b>Policy #</b> AHC 0036	<b>Policy Name</b> CW AHC 0036 Face Coverings - AdventHealth Florida
<b>Policy Location</b> *Company-Wide Policies	<b>Responsible Department</b> Nursing Administration
<b>Policy Owner or Executive Owner</b> VP Nursing Corporate	<b>Original Creation Date</b> Not Set
<b>Policy Effective Date</b> 08/01/2023	<b>Policy Review Date</b> 07/31/2023

**I. SCOPE:** This policy is applicable for patients, visitors, and workforce members (WFM) at AdventHealth entities in Florida.

**II. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and define standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for Infection Control for patients, visitors and workforce members, in accordance with the Florida Statutes.

**III. POLICY:** Health care practitioners and health care providers may choose to require a patient to wear a facial covering only when the patient 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.

Health care practitioners and health care providers may choose to require a visitor to wear a facial covering only when the visitor is

- a. exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission
- b. in sterile areas of the health care setting or an area where sterile procedures are being performed
- c. in an in-patient 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
- d. visiting 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 a person 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.

**IV. PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES:** : Health care practitioners and health care providers who choose to require a facial covering for:

- a. any patient must provide a provision for opting out of wearing a facial covering in accordance with the Florida Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026.F.S. such as a private room where transmission-based precautions can

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- be practiced, or the use of telemedicine evaluation
- b. any visitor must provide a provision for opting out of wearing a facial covering if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available. Examples of opt out provisions for visitors include the use of televisits or a physical barrier such as glass window or plexiglass wall between visitor and patient

Workforce members may opt out of wearing a facial covering unless the WFM is:

- a. conducting a sterile procedure
- b. working in a sterile area
- c. 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 WFM 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.
- d. with a patient on droplet or airborne isolation, or
- e. engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

**V. DEFINITION(S):**

(1) "Face covering" refers to a well-fitting American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) rated or comparable face mask and should:

- Completely cover the nose and mouth
- Fit snugly against the nasal bridge and sides of the face and not have any gaps
- Be handled only by the ear loops, cords or head straps (not the surface of the mask)
- Be changed if they become visibly soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through
- Do NOT combine two (2) medical masks to achieve a snug fit

(2) "Common area" refers to areas in a health care setting where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

(3) Workforce members are defined as all individuals, employed and non-employed who perform tasks and/or provide services at or on behalf of an AdventHealth facility as defined in policy CW HR 001.

(4) "Health care setting" refers to any place where health care practitioners and/or health care providers practice their profession or provide services.

(5) "Patient" refers to a person receiving services from a health care practitioner or health care provider.

(6) "Sterile areas" refers to locations where surgery is conducted or where procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed.

(7) "Sterile procedure" refers to aseptic procedures with the goal of minimizing the risk of microbial contamination to reduce the rate of invasive or surgical site infection.

(8) "Visitor" refers to any person in a health care setting who is not an workforce member or patient of the health care setting.

**VI. EXCEPTION(S):**

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**VII. REFERENCE(S):**

- a. Notice of Emergency Rule 59AER23-D
- b. Notice of Emergency Rule 64DER23-6

**VIII. RELATED DOCUMENT(S) / ATTACHMENT(S):**

- [Facial Covering Opt Out - Employee](#)
- [Facial Covering Opt Out – Non-Employee](#)

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