



COVID-19 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND COVID SCREENING PROTOCOL

Guidance for client use of PPE:

- All clients will be asked to wear a mask and will be provided one if they do not have one when county community COVID level is HIGH.
- Clients in inpatient and residential facilities with symptoms of respiratory infection (cough or shortness of breath) or a fever 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater will be provided a mask to wear, n95 when available.
- Clients residing in inpatient and residential facilities will be required to wear a mask when the program, unit, or area is experiencing a COVID outbreak or has been directly exposed to COVID.
- Any client reporting direct exposure to COVID will be required to wear a mask when being admitted to an inpatient or residential facility.

Guidance for staff use of PPE in non-client care settings:

- In all non-client care settings (including administrative offices, staff rooms, conference rooms, private offices), masks are not required unless a unit or area is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak and Infection Control and Program Leadership has advised masking.

Guidance for staff use of PPE in client care settings:

- In all client-care settings, including common areas, masks are required for all staff, clients, and visitors when the county community COVID level is HIGH. Masks are not required for LOW and MEDIUM levels.
 - The Community COVID level is determined by the CDC using number of people with COVID how have been admitted into local hospitals within the prior week, how many local hospital beds are filled with COVID patients, and how many new COVID cases the county had in the prior week.
 - County COVID level can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
 - When county community COVID level is HIGH, staff in outpatient and administrative areas may wear cloth or surgical masks due to the ability to distance and type of services provided while staff in inpatient and residential areas must wear n95 masks while in client care areas.
 - Regardless of county COVID level, staff who prefer to wear masks are welcome to do so at all times.

- Staff will be required to wear a mask at all times when providing services to a client with respiratory symptoms or fever.
- Staff will be required to wear a mask at all times when providing services to a client who reports direct exposure to COVID, suspected COVID, or is COVID positive. Staff providing close contact services to a client who reports direct exposure to COVID or is COVID positive should wear an n95 mask as well as gloves and a gown.
- Staff who will be utilizing a physical intervention in an inpatient unit (ETO, brief physical hold, escorting into seclusion) with a client exhibiting symptoms of a respiratory infection should wear an n95 mask as well as gloves and a gown.
- Staff will be required to wear n95 masks at all times when working in a unit, area, or program experiencing a COVID outbreak, as directed by Infection Control and program leadership as a mitigation measure.
 - In this case, wearing masks as a form of source control can be discontinued once no new cases have been identified for 14 days.
- Staff will be required to wear a mask as directed in Centerwide Procedure VIII_OO Employee Health – Flu Vaccine regardless of COVID level (<https://mbhci.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1013>)
- If asked to wear a mask by a client, staff providing services to that client should wear a mask.
- Employees who have been cleared to return to work by Human Resources after 5 days must wear a mask for days 5 through 10.
- Employees who have had close contact or higher-risk exposure to COVID but are permitted to continue working by Human Resources must wear a mask for 10 days after the date of exposure.
- All staff and clients will be required to follow all signs posted at entrances informing of any updates to masking protocols.

COVID Screening:

- Clients, visitors, and staff will not be required to be screened at kiosks prior to entry at Meridian facilities.
- Clients and visitors will be screened for respiratory symptoms and COVID exposure by staff prior to entry onto inpatient and residential facilities.
- Clients arriving to Primary Care will be screened at check-in for respiratory symptoms and COVID exposure.

Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>