

June 8, 2023

Re: MASK WEARING PROTOCOL

We extend our sincere appreciation for staff efforts as we have navigated and mitigated the impacts the COVID-19 virus has had on our community. Many surrounding businesses and employers have relaxed mask wearing directives in response to recently released guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As we continually assess and review the County's requirements for mask wearing, our next steps are as follows:

REQUIRED – REHABILITATION and NURSING CENTER:

The Rehabilitation and Nursing Center must adhere to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) guidance as well as follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for best practices. Upon entering the facility, all employees, contractors, and vendors must answer screening questions and sanitize their hands. Employees will now be given the option to refrain from wearing a mask. Any employee that chooses to continue wearing a mask is encouraged and supported. Face masks will be required within the community (RCRNC and EPBALC) when in outbreak status, or if the recommended metric for determining community level is high or otherwise recommended by the Public Health authorities. Individuals will be required to wear a mask based on known exposures and/or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The type of mask will be determined in conjunction with best practices and risk assessment.

REQUIRED – CORRECTIONS FACILITY:

The Department of Corrections, in accordance with CDC guidance, has defined mask wearing as optional unless in an outbreak status. All employees are required to wear a mask at all times when in an outbreak status while in the facility. Masks are optional if employees are in their office by themselves.

OPTIONAL – ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

Employees will now be given the option to refrain from wearing a mask. Any employee that chooses to continue wearing a mask is encouraged and supported. It is highly recommended that any employee experiencing symptoms contact Employee Health Services for guidance on wearing a mask when social distancing cannot be achieved in order to continue to maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all.

Face masks and hand sanitizer continue to be provided in each department. Social distancing and frequent hand washing/sanitizing remain recommended.

Human Resources monitors alerts and evaluates evolving guidance from various regulatory agencies as it becomes available. We will continue to assess recommendations for any potential changes to current practices. Please contact Human Resources at 603-679-9337 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and adherence to Rockingham County's COVID-19 protocols.

Approved: 6/8/23



Brian Chirichiello, Chair



Steven Goddu, Vice Chair



Kathryn Coyle, Clerk