



## Policy: *Moffitt Masking Policy*

<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Infection Prevention & Control	<b>Category:</b>	Safety & Infection Control
<b>Authorized:</b>	Vice President, Chief Quality Officer	<b>Policy Number:</b>	IC-085
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	Annually	<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	08/01/2023

### Policy Statement

Moffitt Cancer Center has a commitment to prevent transmission of communicable disease and to promote a safe environment for patients, visitors, and workforce members. This masking policy will support this commitment. This policy has been formulated to serve as a comprehensive guideline to address general circumstances. There may be certain instances in which the exercise of professional judgment and/or discretion by the health care provider warrants taking other actions. The policy is updated frequently to reflect advancing guidelines published by Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as information from the recognized infection control organizations.

### Scope

The masking guidelines contained in this policy are intended to comply with the Standards established in Emergency Rule 59AER23-2 and apply to all workforce members, visitors, and patients at each Moffitt health care setting.

**Stakeholders:** Infection Prevention & Control, Medical Services and Nursing.

### Procedures

#### MASKING REQUIREMENTS:

**WORKFORCE MEMBERS** – A workforce member is required to wear a mask within a health care setting when the workforce member is:

- Exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- Interacting with a patient who is on transmission-based precautions as addressed in policy IC-010.
- Conducting sterile procedures or working in a sterile area (as per departmental policies in which sterile procedures are conducted).
- Entering the room and/or providing care for patients in BMT & CAR-T units (3W, 4W, 3C), apheresis, and BMT Treatment center.
- Entering a specific unit/department/office that has an active outbreak with a respiratory pathogen.
- Providing care to patients when there is substantial prevalence of a respiratory pathogen within the community.
- Working with a patient whose treating physician has diagnosed with, or has confirmed as having, 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.
- Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards and as per departmental policies.



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### **PATIENTS**

- A patient will be required to wear a mask when the patient is in a common area of the health care setting and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

**VISITORS** – A visitor exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or who has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, should refrain from visiting a Moffitt Health Care Setting unless absolutely necessary. A visitor is required to wear a mask when the visitor is:

- Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- Visiting inpatient / clinical rooms with a patient who is exhibiting signs/symptoms or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- Visiting a patient, including a patient in the BMT or Car-T units, whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed with, or has confirmed as having, 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.

### **OPT-OUT PROVISIONS:**

#### **WORKFORCE MEMBERS:**

- A workforce member may opt out of wearing a mask unless one of the conditions listed above that require the wearing of a mask is present.

#### **PATIENTS:**

- A patient may opt out of wearing a mask if, based upon the professional judgment of the physician treating the patient, an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.
  - Due to the uniquely vulnerable patient population at Moffitt, alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention may not be available.

#### **VISITORS:**

- A visitor may opt out of wearing a facial covering if, based upon the professional judgment of the physician treating the patient who is being visited, an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.
  - Due to the uniquely vulnerable patient population at Moffitt, alternative methods of infection control or infectious disease prevention may not be available.

### **Forms**

N/A

### **Related Information**

N/A

### **Education**

N/A



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### Definitions

**“At-Risk”** – In regard to this masking policy, all patients, visitors, and workforce members in our center are considered “at-risk” when:

- There is a declared outbreak in a specific unit/department/office.

**Center** – Collectively and individually, the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc. and its not-for-profit subsidiaries.

**Common Area** – Where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

**Health Care Setting** – Any place where health care practitioners and/or health care providers practice their profession or provide services.

**Mask** – Refers to a facial covering that covers the user’s nose and mouth and provides a physical barrier to fluids and particulate materials.

**Outbreak in a Unit/Department/Office** – the occurrence of more cases of illness than expected in a specific location over a particular period of time. An outbreak is identified and managed by Infection Prevention in conjunction with their Infection Prevention medical director.

**Patient** – Person receiving services from a health care practitioner or health care provider.

**Sterile Area** – Locations where surgery is conducted or where procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed.

**Visitor** – Any person in a health care setting who is not a workforce member or patient.

**Vulnerable Patient** – 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 workforce members 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.

**Workforce Members** - Employed and non-employed individuals who engage with, provide services to or for, or derive benefit from engaging with the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

### References

ACHA 59AER23-1 Definitions

59AER23-2 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control

### Appendices

N/A

### Revision History

08/2023