

**CATEGORY:** Operations

**POLICY:** Mask/Facial Coverings – Florida

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This policy has been established to address the use of masks and facial coverings in the state of Florida and in accordance with Fla. Stat. Section 408.824 and Fla. Admin. Code Section 59AER-23-2.

**Residents**

The Community may require that a resident wear a facial covering only when the resident is in a common area of the Community and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

Residents may opt-out of wearing masks or facial coverings, in accordance with the law.

**Visitors**

The Community may choose to require a visitor to wear a facial covering only when the visitor is:

- Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- In sterile areas of the Community or an area where sterile procedures are being performed.
- Visiting a resident whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the resident with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from associates without signs or symptoms of infection to a resident and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the resident's safety.

A visitor may opt-out of wearing a mask or facial covering if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.

**Associates**

Associates may choose to opt out of facial covering requirements unless the associate is:

- Conducting sterile procedures.
- Working in a sterile area.
- Working with a resident whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the resident with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from associates without signs or symptoms of infection to a resident and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the resident's safety.
- With a resident on droplet or airborne isolation.
- Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.