

June 23, 2023

Masking Policy Update

At this time, because of the availability of vaccines, access to effective treatments, widespread immunity from natural infections and vaccines, and other factors, effective immediately universal masking is no longer required for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Masks will continue to be available at all of our facilities.

Patients, and those accompanying them, will be required to wear masks if:

- they have fever or flu like symptoms
- have suspected or known COVID and are in the isolation period
- have known exposure to COVID the last 10 days

A request by patients that their caregivers wear a mask will be honored without requiring an explanation.

Staff may choose to wear a mask without requiring an explanation.

Any clinic may choose to continue universal masking to protect high-risk patients.

Universal hand cleaning and gloving policies are unchanged.

There may be circumstances when targeted or broader masking may be in the best interests of Western Washington Medical Group personnel and the people we serve. Our policies will be updated as needed for those occurrences.

Thank you,

Catherine Yee, MD Medical Director, Western Washington Medical Group