
 <b>Ocala Family Medical Center</b> <b>2230 SW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rd</b> <b>Ocala, FL 34471-1391</b>	<b>Masking/Facial Covering Protocol</b>	
	<b>Implementation Date:</b>	08/01/2023
	<b>Revision Date</b>	1
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<b>Written by:</b> Karen DeStephens <b>Approved by:</b> Adam Alpers, D.O.	<b>Signature:</b> 	

**PURPOSE:**

To ensure the health and safety of our patients, employees and visitors, a mask/facial covering will be required when a patient, visitor, or employee is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

This policy applies to all patients, visitors, and employees two years of age and older. A mask/facial covering and other PPE recommendations and/or requirements may be reviewed and reassessed with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations in the event of a community outbreak.

The standards and protocols in this Policy will govern in the event that Ocala Family Medical Center, Inc. encourages or requires the use of a mask/facial covering. Unless otherwise noted, all other policies, procedures, and guidance that encourage or require the use of a mask/facial covering are subject to the standards, protocols, and provisions herein.

This Policy does not apply to the use of personal protective equipment that are recommended and/or required for chemical or physical hazards.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Patients – Any person receiving treatment, care, or other services at OFMC.

Employees – Any person that is an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor of OFMC, who provides any care, treatment, or other services to patients of OFMC.

Visitors – Any person accompanying a Patient to OFMC.

Masks – Any cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose that is compliant with the clinics current masking guidelines.

**PROTOCOL & PROCEDURE:**

**In accordance with 64DER23-6 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control**

- (1) Patients may opt out of facial covering requirements unless the patient is in a common area of the clinic and is:
  - (a) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (b) Has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

- (2) Visitors may opt out of facial covering requirements unless the visitor is:
  - (a) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (b) Has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (c) In sterile areas of the clinic or an area where sterile procedures are being performed;
  - (d) In a clinical room with a patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (e) In a clinical room with a patient who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (f) Is accompanying a patient that has been diagnosed with a condition affecting their immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from visitors (with or without signs or symptoms of infection) to the patient and whose provider has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety.
- (3) OFMC may require employees to wear facial covering in any setting at any time. OFMC employees may opt out of facial covering requirements unless the employee is:
  - (a) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (b) Has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
  - (a) Conducting sterile procedures;
  - (b) Working in a sterile area;
  - (c) Working with a patient that has been diagnosed with a condition affecting their immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees (with or without signs or symptoms of infection) to the patient and whose provider has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety;
  - (d) Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.