

Medlink Management Services, Inc.  
Lake Butler Hospital  
Infection Control Policy Manual

Title: Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial  
Coverings for Infection Control

Applies To: All Staff

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**PURPOSE:** Ensure concurrent compliance with infection control standards as provided by the CDC and the FL DOH per *FS 408.824* and associated Florida agency rules *59AER23-2*.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of Lake Butler Hospital to use the following standards to decide when masks are to be used by patients, visitors, and employees; what individuals may do to opt out of mask requirements, and which scenarios masks will be mandatory with no option to opt out.

**STANDARDS:**

1. Conditions under which masks may be indicated:

- a. Lake Butler Hospital employees may choose to require a patient to wear a facial covering only when the patient is in a common area of Lake Butler Hospital and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- b. Health care practitioners and health care providers 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.
- c. In sterile areas of the health care setting or an area where sterile procedures are being performed.
- d. In an in-patient or clinical room with a patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or visiting a 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 employees 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.

2. Opting out of mask indications:

- a. In accordance with the Florida Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026, F.S., patients, visitors, and employees may opt out of mask indications if an alternative form of infection prevention is available to address the scenario under which the mask was indicated. Such alternative methods shall be offered and approved by either a physician, provider, charge nurse, or

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infection control professional. Such incidents will be scanned into the medical record when appropriate or given to infection control and/or employee health for record keeping (attachment 1).

3. Conditions under which opting out is not an option:
  - a. Conducting sterile procedures.
  - b. Working in a sterile area.
  - c. Working with a 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 employees 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.
  - d. With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation.
  - e. Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Infection Control Coordinator has responsibility to ensure compliance with this policy.

ATTACHMENTS/RESOURCES: None

ASSOCIATED CROSS-REFERENCES: None

HISTORY: None

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**Attachment 1: Mask opt Out Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to opt out of facial mask indication and have discussed alternative methods of infection control with an appropriate healthcare provider.

Circle one: [Patient] [Visitor] [Employee]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: [Infection Control] [Charge Nurse] [Provider or Physician]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_