

STANDARDS FOR THE APPROPRIATE USE OF FACIAL COVERINGS FOR INFECTION CONTROL – ALF

Section: Nursing Services
Policy No. 2.34
Approval: Annette Hodges
Date: July 13, 2023

POLICY

This facility will follow the standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for Infection Control and as further specified in 59AER23-2.

PURPOSE

Regulatory compliance.

PROCEDURE

1. The facility may require a resident to wear a facial covering only when the resident is in a common area of the facility and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
2. Visitors to the facility may only be required 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 a sterile area of the facility or where sterile procedures are being performed.
 - In the room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms or has a diagnosed infection disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission or
 - 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 the risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a resident or whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary.
3. Pursuant to 59AER23-2(2), visitors may opt out of wearing a facial covering if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.
4. Employees may opt out of facial covering requirements unless:
 - 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 the risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a resident or whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary.
 - Working with a resident on droplet or airborne isolation or
 - Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.
5. The facility nurse will be responsible for monitoring for compliance with the above and for any assistance as needed related to Infection Control.
6. This policy will be displayed in a conspicuous place in the facility lobby or on the facility website.