

# **COVID-19 Associate Mask Guidance**

## **Vaccinated**

\*Associates who have completed full series of vaccine dose(s)

- Associates who are fully vaccinated will have the personal choice to go without a procedural mask if the following criteria is met:
- ✓ Community is NOT in outbreak status. (See Definition)
- If the associate is directly exposed to COVID-19, no quarantine is needed. However, the associate should monitor themselves for signs/symptoms and not come to the Community if sick.

## Recommendation:

 If the surrounding county COVID risk rate is high, preventative measures are highly recommended. Personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing & proper handwashing can significantly decrease your risk of infection.

## **Unvaccinated Associates**

Unvaccinated associates who have received a medical or religious exemption from the vaccine may remove their mask only if the following criteria is met:

- ✓ Community is NOT in outbreak status. (See Definition)
- ✓ Surrounding county has less than 10% positivity rate
- Associates will <u>always</u> be required wear a N95 mask while providing direct care services to residents.
- Associates will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result weekly to the community.
  - Associate will be required to follow all quarantine requirements in accordance with the CDC and current protocol.

### **Recommendation:**

 If the surrounding county COVID risk rate is high, preventative measures are highly recommended. Personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing & proper handwashing can significantly decrease your risk of infection. ALL Associates must continue to screen in on Accushield prior to the start of their scheduled shift.

#### **Definitions:**

**COVID-19 Outbreak:** Five or more active cases of COVID-19 at a community is considered an outbreak (*State/ County Regulation Supersedes this guidance*).

 Fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

#### **Reminders:**

- Associates are encouraged to consult their medical provider if they have any high-risk medical conditions.
- Exemption Associate received an approved exemption as outlined in the exemption process.
- In cases where the community is not conducting in house testing, the responsibility to secure testing will fall to the associate.

Note: COVID-19 Associate Mask Guidance has been updated to reflect current CDC guidelines as well as hiring needs and provisions have been made to attract and retain health care associates.

State Regulation Supersedes guidance.

Updated 09/15/2022 Support Center