

Masking Guidance and Accommodations

Non Respiratory Virus Season

Advocate Health Midwest

ALL CLINICAL SETTINGS

- **Masks will be optional** for all teammates, patients and visitors in all clinical settings, with the following exceptions:
 - **Symptomatic patients*** should continue to wear a mask when outside their patient room.
 - **Areas where a respiratory viral outbreak/cluster is identified** by Infection Prevention or Teammate Health.
 - **In areas with long-standing masking requirements in place since the start of the COVID pandemic**, such as emergency department waiting rooms, certain cancer care locations, pediatric hematology oncology clinic, inpatient hematology units, etc.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR PATIENTS

- **If a patient requests you wear a mask**, it is expected that the teammates comply and wear a mask in any setting.
- **Symptomatic patients who are unable to mask** will not be required to mask.
 - **Exceptions for patient masking** will be made when the risk outweighs benefits and patient would experience harm if required to wear a mask, examples include health or behavioral health concerns such as but not limited to:
 - Sensory disorders
 - Communication barriers
 - Autism spectrum disorder
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Patients who are end of life

TEAMMATES WITH RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

- Refer to the guidelines outlined on the teammate health site: [COVID Guidelines \(sharepoint.com\)](#)