

To: All Employees and Visitors

From: Ann Donovan, RN, MSN, CWON Director of Nursing   
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Date: May 15, 2023

Subject: Universal Masking and Entrance Screening for the nursing facility and Personal Care Home

**At this time universal masking, the use of a well fitted mask will not be required based on the Pennsylvania Department of Health 2023 PAHAN 694 update on May 11, 2023. However, there is some important information all must be aware of:**

- Even when a facility does not require masking for source control, individuals are allowed to use a mask or respirator based on personal preference, informed by their perceived level of risk for infection based on their recent activities (e.g., attending crowded indoor gatherings with poor ventilation) and their potential for developing severe disease if they are exposed.
- A well fitted mask will be required if you have suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or other respiratory infection (e.g., those with runny nose, cough, sneeze)
- A well fitted mask will be required if you have had close contact (patients and visitors) or a higher-risk exposure (HCP) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection, for 10 days after their exposure.
- A well fitted mask will be required for those residing or working on a unit or area of the facility experiencing a SARS-CoV-2 or other outbreak of a respiratory infection; universal use of source control (masking) could be discontinued as a mitigation measure once the outbreak is over (e.g., no new cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection have been identified for 14 days)
- Anytime source control (masking) is recommended by the public health authorities (e.g., in guidance for the community when COVID-19 hospital admission levels are high).
- A well fitted mask will be required if CDC recommends that healthcare facilities institute facility-wide masking or when masks are recommended in the community.
- In the event there is any suspected or confirmed respiratory infections including but not limited to SARS-CoV-2 universal masking at St. Anne Home will be required. St. Anne Home will monitor community metrics on the approved CDC Data Tracker for guidance on when to return to facility wide masking.
- Screening upon entry is not required which includes temperature checks. However, please refer to the Visual Sign regarding if you have suspected or confirmed SARs-CoV-2 and DO NOT ENTER Building. Please notify Infection Control Nurse, RN Supervisor or Director of Nursing so additional information can be obtained.

In the event the facility experiences a COVID 19 outbreak which is defined as one case the facility will return to masking and screening upon entry. St Anne Home remains committed to CDC's Core Infection Control practices which include source control (masking) as an important intervention during periods of higher respiratory virus transmission.