



Policy Name: Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Covering for Infection Control

Effective Date: 8/1/2023

Category: Operations/Clinical

Revision Dates:

Applies to: All Communities

Policy

Concordis Senior Living shall abide by the guidelines as set forth in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 408.824 Facial Covering Requirements for Health Care Practitioners and Health Care Providers and F.A.C. 59AER23-2 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control. The policy includes procedures for Residents, Staff and Visitors as well as procedures for opting out of facial coverings under certain conditions.

Definitions

As used in this section, the term:

- (a) "Department" means the Department of Health
- (b) "Facial Covering" means a cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.
- (c) "Health Care Practitioner" has the meaning as in s. 456.001
- (d) "Health Care Provider" means a provider as defined in s. 408.803: a service provider licensed or certified under s.393.17, part III of chapter 401, or part IV of chapter 468: a provider with an active health care clinic exemption under s. 400.9935: an optical establishment permitted under s.484.007: a massage establishment licensed under s. 480.043: a pharmacy as defined in s. 465.003: or an office registered under s 458.328 or s. 459.0138
- (e) "Office" means an office maintained for the practice of health care practitioner's profession, as provided in his or her practice act.
- (f) "Staff" means employees of Concordis Senior Living and or the subject Facility

NOTE: F.S 408.803 includes Assisted Living Facilities licensed in Florida

Procedure

Concordis Senior living shall post a copy of this policy on the website and post a copy of the policy in the common area.

Concordis Senior Living shall require **Residents** to wear a mask when the resident is in a common area and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed

with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission. A common area is an area within a health care facility where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined. Residents must be permitted to opt-out of wearing facial covering.

Concordis Senior Living must allow **Residents** to opt-out of wearing a facial covering as per the Department of Health Regulation F.S.381.026, The Patient/Resident Bill of Rights which includes consideration for:

- (1) The resident's right to make a decision in an informed manner,
- (2) The resident's right to have their individual dignity respected, and their responsibility to respect the reasonable and responsible expectations of the provider and facility.
- (3) The resident's right to have their individual dignity respected, and their responsibility.
- (4) Concordis Senior Living shall offer alternatives to facial coverings, which may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

Concordis Senior Living shall require **visitors** to wear to wear a facial covering when the visitor is:

- (1) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission,
- (2) In a sterile area or an area where sterile procedures are being performed,
- (3) In an in-resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or
- (4) Visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety. Visitors must be permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.
- (5) Concordis Senior Living shall offer alternatives to facial coverings, which may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

Concordis Senior Living shall require **staff** to wear a facial covering when the staff is:

- (1) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of, or has been diagnosed with, an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission,
- (2) In a sterile area or an area where sterile procedures are being performed,
- (3) Providing care in a resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or
- (4) Visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for

the resident's safety. Staff must be permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.

Concordis Senior Living **staff** must be permitted to opt-out of wearing a facial covering unless they are:

- (1) Conducting sterile procedures,
- (2) Working in a sterile area,
- (3) Working with a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety,
- (4) With a resident on droplet or airborne isolation, or
- (5) Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.