



## LCMHS Mask Protocol

Effective June 29, 2021

The following protocol is meant to update the expectations of staff use of masking when engaged in the work of their program. The protocol is based on an assumption of staff having been vaccinated for the Covid 19 virus. It is expected staff will meet or exceed the described uses, but not be less protected than advised by this protocol. As well, it is understood that some may continue to wear a mask as they choose when in situations it is not required.

We do expect the use of PPE to continue to be adjusted as changes occur in infections or other factors that have been of impact in the past year (i.e. variants, change in State guidelines, etc.). We will notify staff as soon as possible when any changes are to be instituted.

The VT Department of health advises that if you are unvaccinated, you should try to maintain physical distance—it is generally recommended this be 6 feet. Being closer than 6 feet from a person with COVID-19, you are most likely to get infected. We do expect persons who are not vaccinated to observe masking in shared spaces, hallways, and in other situations in which this has been observed in the past year.

Finally, please note there are constant exceptions to the use of PPE. Please abide by any request to mask yourself when on duty. If you have concerns in any situation you may consult with a supervisor as needed.

### **When you need to wear a mask:**

- If you are doing a home visit and there is a child present under the age of 12
- If you as a staff person are unvaccinated you need to wear a mask while attending a home visit, when engaging with staff or consumers within 6 feet even when out of doors, and while transporting client/consumer
- If you are in a school
- If you are supporting someone in a community setting and entering a place of business that requires it
- If you are going into any of LCMHS residential homes (Copley House, Johnson Group Home, and Oasis)
- If you are going to do a visit in a correctional facility
- If you are doing medication dispensing

- If you are providing support that requires you to touch or be in close proximity for a long period of time—generally longer than 15 minutes
- If you are supporting a client/consumer in a health care setting
- When providing services to an immunocompromised person regardless of the vaccination status of either person. Examples of this are persons with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and any person receiving immunosuppressive drugs/chemotherapy or individuals who have had a transplant
- If the person receiving services ask the caregiver/staff to wear one, this request should be respected
- If you are using public transportation

*Staff should always have a mask they can easily wear when necessary. The agency will continue to supply these should you need one.*

#### **When you do not need to wear a mask: Vaccinated Persons Only**

- When you are in LCMHS main building, Plaza, Valley ABA building
- When you are doing home visits when no children under 12 years old are present.
- When you are in your office
- When you are supporting someone in the community or job site
- When you are in the car

*If you are not meeting the advised standard of having received the approved Covid 19 vaccination, with the final shot have been at least two weeks previous to the current date you are considered to be unvaccinated. Persons who are unvaccinated will be expected to wear a mask in all appointments/contacts with consumers and staff, when inside the agency, and within six feet of others while on agency work time.*

*We do recommend for staff to continue to use hand sanitizer and disinfection by regular handwashing regardless of vaccination status. As well we encourage all staff to be aware of their own health status and to stay home when feeling ill.*

*When transporting a consumer/client you can transport more than one consumer at a time if all are fully vaccinated. We also need to take into consideration any health conditions of anyone who is in the vehicle.*

*If you are returning from out of State travel, Vermont does not require quarantine or testing but CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated because travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19.*

Vermont Department of Health will continue to do contact tracing. These attached websites have additional information:

Employers and employees seeking operational recommendations should reference the Vermont Department of Health Website. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/your-community/businesses-employees>

Health Care providers should reference Vermont: <https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward#:~:text=Child%20care%20providers%20should%20reference%20Vermont%20Department%20of%20Health%20guidance>.

Long Term Care Facilities should continue to reference: <https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward#:~:text=Child%20care%20providers%20should%20reference%20Vermont%20Department%20of%20Health%20guidance>.

Schools should reference Agency of Education end of year guidance as well as Fall 2021 Operations guidance:

<https://www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward#:~:text=Child%20care%20providers%20should%20reference%20Vermont%20Department%20of%20Health%20guidance>.

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