



**TITLE: Masking (Facial Coverings)**

**LOCATIONS:**

All          Downtown          North          Offsite EDs          Offsite Clinics

**POLICY:** Patients, Employees, and Visitors will be required to wear masks under special circumstances to prevent the spread of infection through droplet or airborne transmission. This policy applies to all Patients, Visitors, and Employees two years of age and older. Facial coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations and/or requirements may be reviewed and reassessed with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations in the event of a community outbreak. This Policy does not apply to the use of personal protective equipment that are recommended and/or required for chemical or physical hazards.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. **Employee** - For the purpose of this policy, any person under employment, contract, or grant of clinical privileges of the hospital, including but not limited to healthcare practitioners, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, students, and volunteers.
2. **Hospital** – Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, Inc., dba UF Health Jacksonville, UF Health North and all offsite locations.
3. **Mask**- Any cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose that is compliant with the Hospital’s current masking guidelines.
4. **Patients** – Any person receiving treatment, care, or other services from the Hospital.
5. **Provider**- Treating Physician, Physician Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner.
6. **Visitors** – Any person visiting any of the Hospital locations that is not a Patient, Team Member, or Professional Staff Member.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Patients**- In the event that the Hospital requires the use of Masks, Patients may be required to wear a mask in the common areas of the Hospital locations if the Patient is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
2. **Visitors**- In the event the Hospital requires the use of Masks, Visitors may be required to wear a Mask if the Visitor is:
  - A. Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;



2. Caring for a Patient or being present while sterile procedures are being performed, including aseptic procedures or surgeries;
3. Working in a sterile area of any Hospital location, including where surgeries or procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed;
4. With a Patient who is on droplet or airborne isolation;
5. Working (i) with a Patient whose Provider has diagnosed the patient with or



1. Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#))
2. Personal Protective Equipment ([29 CFR 1910. 132](#))
3. Respiratory Protection ([29 CFR 1910. 134](#))

[Conditions of Participation Infection Control Worksheet](#) – See tag 1.A.3. – “The Infection Control Officer(s) can provide evidence that the hospital has developed general infection control policies and procedures that are based on nationally recognized guidelines and applicable state and federal law.”

Joint Commission

1. [Hospital Respiratory Protection: Resources and Projects | The Joint Commission](#)
2. [Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit \(osha.gov\)](#)

[CDC Prevention strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings: Guidelines and Recommendations](#)

**APPROVED BY:**

**Legal Services July 2023**