

Health Advisory

Updates to COVID-19 Vaccination and Masking Requirements for Healthcare Workers May 10, 2023

SUMMARY POINTS

- Masking is no longer mandated by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) in healthcare facilities.
- PDPH advises that all operators of healthcare facilities should develop and implement masking plans and guidance for staff and visitors based on the risk to certain patient populations and units as well as changes in COVID-19 and other respiratory virus activity in the community.
- No one should be prohibited from wearing a mask at any time in a healthcare facility or while seeing a healthcare provider.
- Healthcare workers are encouraged to mask when in a room with a patient if the patient or family requests that they do so.
- The healthcare worker COVID-19 vaccine mandate remains in effect.

The City of Philadelphia and PDPH recently updated guidance for healthcare workers based on the current status of COVID-19 activity in the City. PDPH will no longer require masking in healthcare facilities. These recommendations may change in the future.

Masking is no longer required for healthcare workers, patients, or visitors in healthcare facilities.

- Masking is at the discretion of the healthcare institution in accordance with its infection control policies and practices. Updated CDC recommendations can be found [here](#).
- PDPH advises that all operators of healthcare facilities should develop and implement masking plans and guidance for staff and visitors based on the risk to certain patient populations and units as well as changes in COVID-19 and other respiratory virus activity in the community.
- No one should be prevented or prohibited from wearing a mask at any time.
- Healthcare workers are encouraged to mask when in a room with a patient if the patient or family requests that they do so.
- All staff in any location must continue to mask upon returning to work after a COVID-19 exposure or infection per [CDC guidance](#).

The Healthcare Worker Vaccine mandate is still in effect. To be considered in compliance with the HCW COVID-19 Vaccine mandate an individual must have received at least one of the following:

- 2 doses of monovalent vaccine.
- One dose of bivalent vaccine.
- One dose of Janssen vaccine.

An individual may not simply opt out of vaccination. They must submit for approval a medical or religious exemption to the Healthcare Institution where the individual works in accordance with the policies established by the institution. Healthcare systems may enforce vaccine requirements that are more stringent. Most people will need more doses than those required to meet the requirements of the mandate to be optimally protected.