

Updated MHN Guidelines for Coronavirus Protection – July 26, 2021

These updated MHN guidelines are based upon the most recent guidance from CDC/OSHA and are subject to future modification related to additional CDC/OSHA guidance or community transmission rates of COVID-19.

All visitors are still required to wear masks at all times (except when eating or drinking) and patients must wear medical grade masks for transport or when they are out of their rooms -regardless of their vaccination status.

The most recent CDC/OSHA guidance reflects the known reduced risk of infection or transmission of COVID-19 when healthcare workers are fully vaccinated. In order to implement these updated guidelines, vaccinated healthcare workers must clearly identify their immunization status using a designated orange sticker on their photo I.D. badge. Vaccinated staff with no orange sticker on their name badge must continue to comply with standard protective precautions.

Vaccinated health care workers have some limited options to safely remove their face masks in certain circumstances. The guidance also allows elimination of eye protection for most direct patient care that does not involve COVID patients or splash risk. Vaccinated health care workers are advised to consider continuing standard protection measures (masks, eye protection, distancing) if they live with unvaccinated persons or have immune-compromised members of their household. Areas in which masks or distancing are optional may vary by department, location or the vaccination status of those in the area.

Unvaccinated healthcare workers are presumed to have normal vulnerability to COVID-19 infection/transmission which still requires standard levels of protection in the workplace regarding masks, eye protection and social distancing.

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE MASKING/PPE PROTOCOL			
	Vaccinated		Unvaccinated	
	Mask (Hospital Grade)	Eye Protection	Mask (Hospital Grade)	Eye Protection
Patient Care Areas or where patients and visitors may be present – including but not limited to lobby, cafeteria, hallways, stairwells, nurses stations and all other patient care areas.	X		X	
Direct patient care: Routine care of patients <u>not</u> on Extended Airborne Isolation (patients not suspected of having COVID or under investigation):	X		X	X
Direct patient care: Aerosol Generating Procedures on any patient or Extended Airborne Isolation (i.e. COVID patient): *N95 or equivalent respirator and eye protection	X*	X	X*	X
With other employees in meetings or in non-public areas with other employees where patients or visitors are not present			X	
Breakrooms:	When only vaccinated employees are present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No masks or time limit Social distancing not required 		When an unvaccinated employee is present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited time without masks (15 min. or less) for all staff Social distancing required for all staff 	