



Denver Health Staff Masking Policy FAQ

****Mask policy changes will be based on public health guidance, COVID-19 hospitalizations, community spread and other variables.**

When should I wear a mask?

Denver Health currently has a universal masking policy in place for all patient-facing and clinical areas of all locations, regardless of vaccination status. That means that all staff, students, patients and visitors are required to wear a mask when in a public or patients-facing area of a Denver Health building or clinic regardless of vaccination status. This also includes the Good Day Café when in line and not at a table eating.

As of February 14, 2022, Denver Health has returned to voluntary masking for employees in non-patient-facing areas, such as breakrooms, huddle rooms, and administrative offices.

People will have different levels of comfort with this change, and Denver Health encourages employees to adopt a masking practice that is right for them. Employees who have exemptions for vaccination are required to wear a mask in all areas for their safety and the safety of others. If you have any questions or concerns about the masking requirements, please reach out to your leader or email COVIDinfo@dhha.org.

*** As a reminder, all unvaccinated exempt staff must continue to mask regardless of clinical/non-clinical setting.

Do we need to mask when attending in-person meetings?

Vaccinated staff are no longer required to wear a mask throughout meetings when in non-clinical areas, however they may continue to do so if they choose. Employees who have exemptions for vaccination are required to wear a mask in all areas for their safety and the safety of others.

Do I need to mask when at my desk?

Vaccinated staff in non-clinical areas are no longer required to wear a mask throughout the workday and at their desks.

What options are available to me if I'm not comfortable with in-person meetings?

Managers and leaders are no longer required to provide and instead may choose whether or not to provide the choice for alternative options such as WebEx, a phone option or other virtual meeting platforms in order to accommodate staff who wish to continue to meet virtually if the position allows for it.

Should patients and visitors still wear masks in exam rooms?

Yes, everyone at Denver Health patients and visitors are required to wear masks throughout the Denver Health system regardless of vaccination status. Examples include exam rooms, clinical waiting rooms, lobbies of clinical buildings, café or restaurant areas, hallways of clinical buildings and nursing stations that are open to clinical areas. If a visitor and or patient is alone in a clinical room with the door closed, the visitor or patient may remove their mask.

Where can staff go for additional information on COVID-19 Vaccine efficacy and safety?

Please visit the [Denver Health Help Center Vaccine Page, linked here](#) to find more information on vaccine safety, efficacy and more frequently asked questions about protection against COVID-19.

Where can staff turn if they have questions about the new policy or would like to speak to someone?

- Always start with your immediate supervisor for any issues, concerns you have about working conditions or policies.
- For questions specific to the new masking policy and requirements, contact Infection Prevention at 303-60-2BUGZ.
- If you are distressed at work or need peer-to-peer support, contact RISE.

We encourage staff to utilize RISE resources which are available to all staff and can be found [here](#). Denver Health RISE is a program created for healthcare by Johns Hopkins Medicine and Maryland Patient Safety Center, that has been customized to meet the needs and culture of Denver Health. RISE Peer Responders are available 24/7 to provide immediate, confidential peer to peer support to all caregivers who experience distressing events at work.
