

When to Wear a Mask in Skilled Nursing

Guidance effective Aug 15, 2023

Residents and Visitors:

- When County Hospitalization Rates of COVID-19 are **high** and/or you reside in an area with a COVID-19 or other respiratory illness outbreak, masking is required when in common areas or when others enter the room. Residents may choose to unmask and have visitors unmask when in rooms and not in presence of others.
- When a resident has a respiratory illness and must leave their room or when others enter the room (for at least 10 days for COVID-19).
 - ❖ Reminder: during an illness, you will be asked to stay in your room to prevent the spread of illness to others.
- Residents: When you have had close contact to COVID-19, and through at least day 10 post-exposure.
- If otherwise recommended by infection preventionist or public health authorities.

Visitors:

- When masking is required for the individual that you are visiting as noted by signage on room.
 - ❖ Reminder: *Please do not visit when you are sick.* If you have COVID-19, please do not visit for at least 10 days and ensure your symptoms have resolved. Please also do not visit for at least 10 days after exposure to COVID-19.

While masks are only required under the above conditions, all individuals are welcome to wear a mask at any time, based on personal preference, informed by their level of risk for infection based on their recent activities.