

Transitioning from Pandemic to Endemic

Starting May 1, 2023, VA Maine's Masking Guidance Will Change

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, VA Maine Healthcare System has been dedicated to protecting you, your family, our staff, and the greater Maine community. While the general public has progressed in the “new normal” journey, the healthcare environment is in a unique position that requires a more delicate and gradual approach. We must balance providing care to those who are acutely ill with protecting those with chronic diseases or compromised immune systems who may be at higher risk for developing severe illness.

What should I know?

Before you go:

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please contact your Primary Care provider.
- Masking is still **required** for:
 - Individuals with potential or confirmed COVID-19 infection, other types of respiratory infection, or respiratory symptoms even if mild.
 - Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
 - Individuals entering a **higher risk clinical area**.
- Individuals may choose to wear a face mask based on personal preference, their level of risk for infection based on recent activities, or their potential for developing severe illness.
- **Healthcare personnel are required to wear a mask upon request of a Veteran patient, caregiver or family member.**

When you arrive:


- Please hand sanitize and wear a Face Mask ***if***:
 - You have any cold or flu like symptoms.
 - You had a recent exposure to COVID-19 in past 10 days.
 - You or a loved one are at risk for severe illness.


Please note: In some clinical areas, staff will be wearing face masks based on medical assessment needs.

What you'll see on social media:

Starting May 01, 2023
CHANGES TO MASKING GUIDANCE
 Masking will be optional unless you are having cold or flu like symptoms, you or a loved one are at high risk, or if you are visiting one of the following high risk areas:

- Intensive Care Unit
- Inpatient Acute Care
- Emergency Department
- Community Living Center
- Inpatient Mental Health
- Pulmonary / GI
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Oncology



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO
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Veterans Health Administration
Maine Healthcare System

What you'll see when entering a VA Maine Healthcare facility:

Masking optional, **unless**
 you have:

- ▣ Cold or Flu like symptoms
- or
- ▣ Recent exposure in past 10 days
- or
- ▣ You or a loved one are at High Risk



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What you'll see when entering a higher risk clinical area:

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED**



PRIOR TO ENTRY
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