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## CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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### **Provider Guidance Memo: Face Coverings in Long-Term Care & Senior Living Congregate Care Settings September 16, 2022**

There are currently no state-level requirements in Kentucky pertaining to the wearing of face coverings or masks in a licensed long-term care facility (LTCF) or senior living congregate care setting. A Provider should consult the most current guidance provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to inform its own determination about what source control measures are safe and appropriate for patients, residents and staff members, as well as for achieving and maintaining compliance with federal requirements that may apply to its setting. Recommended resources include:

#### CDC:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- CDC continues to recommend source control for everyone in a healthcare setting. This is particularly important for individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, who live or work in counties with substantial to high community transmission.
- Personnel caring for people with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection should use full PPE (gowns, gloves, eye protection, and a NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator).
- KDPH supports and encourages “Providers” to follow the guidance from CDC with respect to healthcare settings and use of PPE (including masks for source control).

#### CMS:

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-08-nltc-revised.pdf>  
“We continue to expect healthcare staff and surveyors (AOs, contractors, Federal, State, and Local) to comply with basic infection control practices such as hand hygiene, wearing masks, and the use of other personal protective equipment, as appropriate for the situation (i.e., standard, contact, airborne, etc.). Surveyors should focus on the regulatory requirements for each provider and supplier type and whether the facility consistently follows processes that are based on national standards of practice. Guidelines produced by the CDC are an example of a source for national standards.”

OSHA:

- Emergency Temporary Standard at <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>
- <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/respiratory-protection-covid19-long-term-care.pdf>
  - Although no longer a *requirement*, mask-wearing in health care settings remains an *expectation*.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will continue to provide information and updates to LTCF Providers.



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