

SRI MANAGEMENT, LLC - HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

Facial Coverings

I.PURPOSE

The purpose of the facial covering policy is designed to promote resident, visitors, and staff compliance with Florida Statue 59AER23-2, Standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for Infection Control which ensures Floridians be free from:

- (1) mandated facial coverings.
- (2) mandates of any kind relating to COVID-19 vaccines; and
- (3) discrimination based on such vaccination status.

II.POLICY

SRI MANAGEMENT, LLC's policy is intended to inform and educate staff and visitors for compliance with 59AER23-2, Standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for Infection Control.

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that all adhere to the policy and procedures.

III.PROCEDURE

Definitions:

- (1) "Common area" refers to areas in a health care setting where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.
- (2) "Employee/staff" refers to any person under employment or contract of a health care setting, including health care practitioners, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, students, and volunteers.
- (3) "Health care setting/community" refers to any place where health care practitioners and/or health care providers practice their profession or provide services.
- (4) "Patient/resident" refers to a person receiving services from a health care practitioner or health care provider.
- (5) "Visitor" refers to any person in a health care setting who is not an employee or patient of the health care setting

Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control

- A resident will wear a facial covering only when the resident is in a common area of the community and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- Visitors are to wear a facial covering only when the visitor is:
 - (a) Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission,
 - (b) In a resident's room who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or
 - (c) Visiting a resident whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety.

- A staff member is to wear a facial covering only when the staff is.
 - a) Working with a patient whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety,
 - b) With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation, or
 - c) Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

- **Opt-Out Requirements are as follows:**
 - a) Pursuant to 59AER23-2(1) and with the Florida Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026, F.S. residents may opt out of wearing facial covering.
 - Residents can opt out of facial coverings if they are not:
Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, unless doing so would risk the safety or health of the patient, other patients, or staff of the facility or office or cannot be reasonably accommodated by the facility or provider.
 - b) Pursuant to 59AER23-2(1) visitors may opt out of wearing facial covering.
 - A visitor can opt out of facial coverings if they are not:
Exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, unless doing so would risk the safety or health of the resident, other residents, or staff of the facility or office or cannot be reasonably accommodated by the facility or provider.
 - c) Pursuant to 59AER23-2(1) An employee may opt out of wearing facial covering.
 - An employee may opt out of facial covering requirements unless an employee is:
 - a) Conducting sterile procedures,
 - b) Working with a patient whose treating health care practitioner has diagnosed the patient with or confirmed a condition affecting the immune system in a manner which is known to increase risk of transmission of an infection from employees without signs or symptoms of infection to a patient and whose treating practitioner has determined that the use of facial coverings is necessary for the patient's safety,
 - c) With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation, or
 - d) Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.