

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question 1:** Why is Penn Highlands Healthcare lifting the mask mandate?

**Answer:** With COVID-19 community transmission levels and hospital admissions declining, the time is right to lift the mask mandate.

**Question 2:** Who is impacted by this decision to lift the mask mandate?

**Answer:** This applies to patients, visitors, employees, physicians, volunteers and vendors at our hospitals, long-term care facilities, personal care facilities, outpatient facilities and physician offices. This applies to patients, visitors, employees, physicians, volunteers and vendors.

**Question 3:** Are there areas where masks are still mandatory?

**Answer:** Yes. Masking will continue to be mandatory in clinical settings that traditionally require masking such as during certain procedures and with certain patient populations. Appropriate masks are required when caring for patients who are COVID-19 positive or who are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test. Masks are still strongly recommended in areas caring for moderate to severely immunocompromised patients.

**Question 4:** What if I have been exposed to COVID-19 or am experiencing symptoms?

**Answer:** Penn Highlands Healthcare employees who have been exposed or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should continue to wear masks until cleared.

**Question 5:** When is this effective?

**Answer:** This is effective starting Monday, May 1, 2023

**Question 6:** Do I need to wear a mask if I have not been vaccinated for the flu?

**Answer:** Yes. Employees who opted out in receiving a flu vaccination are required to wear a mask from November 1 through May 1.

**Question 7:** What if I did not get COVID-19 vaccinated?

**Answer:** It is strongly recommended that if you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 that you wear a mask, but it is not required.

**Question 8:** What if I am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?

**Answer:** If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms employees are still required to contact employee health and everyone should wear a mask until cleared.

**Question 9:** What if I had a religious or medical exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, do I need to wear a mask?

**Answer:** It is strongly recommended that if you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 that you wear a mask, but it is not required.

**Question 10:** May I wear a mask if I want to?

**Answer:** Yes. Patients, visitors and employees may choose to continue wearing masks, and should be treated with respect.

**Question 11:** Could the mask mandate be re-implemented?

**Answer:** Yes.