



Policy Name: Infection Control: Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings

Effective Date: July 13, 2023

Related Policy/References: Florida Statutes, Chapter 408.824 Facial Covering Requirements for Health Care Practitioners and Health Care Providers and F.A.C. 59AER23-2 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control.

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## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide employees, contractors, visitors and vendors of Advent Square's requirements for facial coverings as per the above cited Florida Statutes and Codes.

## Policy

It is the policy of Advent Square to safeguard the wellbeing of our residents and staff to the best of our ability while respecting the rights of same. The Administrator or designee in consultation with Nurse Manger and House Physician will determine the need for facial coverings. The Administrator or designee will monitor the infection control status of the facility and ensure that appropriate masking and opt-out options are in effect when needed.

### I. **Masking Guidelines:**

- a. **Residents:** Advent Square requires Residents to wear a mask when the resident is in a common area and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission. A common area is an area within a health care facility where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined. Residents are permitted to opt-out of wearing facial coverings.
- b. **Visitors:** Advent Square requires Visitors to wear a mask when the visitor is:
  - i. exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission
  - ii. in a resident room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
  - iii. visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety.
  - iv. Visitors are permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.
- c. **Employees & Contractors** Advent Square requires employees & contractors to wear a mask when the employee/contractor is
  - i. exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission
  - ii. providing care in a resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or

- iii. visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety.
- iv. Employees/contractors may opt-out of wearing a mask unless they are:
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**II. Opt-Out Guidelines** Advent Square encourages all residents, visitors and team members to follow the policies for facial coverings. However, state regulations allow residents, visitors and team members to opt-out of wearing facial coverings.

a. **Residents:** may opt out as per the Resident Bill of Rights which allows for:

- i. The resident's right to make decisions in an informed manner
- ii. The resident's right to have their individual dignity respected, and their responsibility to respect the reasonable and responsible expectations of the provider or facility

b. **Employees/Contractors:** may opt-out of wearing a mask unless they are:

- i. working with a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety, (4) with a resident on droplet or airborne isolation, or
- ii. engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards

Advent Square offers alternatives to facial covering which may include social distancing, outdoor visitation and/or transparent physical barriers