

Sept. 9, 2022

## **COVID PPE Update**

COVID cases continue to decline in the counties we serve, and they are under or hovering around 100 new COVID cases per 100,000 residents. Cases among patients and staff have also declined. Considering the present cases numbers, you will no longer be required to wear a respirator in our clinical settings.

Please verify you are following our COVID-19 prevention strategies:

### **Clinical settings**

- You are wearing a minimum of a medical grade mask however, the highest level of protection you can wear is highly encouraged (i.e., respirator, two medical grade masks).
- Staff need to wear eye protection during all encounters with patients and visitors. This includes during patient/visitor symptom screening and patient education.
- Patients and visitors need to wear a medical grade mask at a minimum and must wear their mask properly (i.e. over the nose and mouth).
- Only one staff may have their mask down to eat in the breakroom or other shared space at a time. Staff should spread out to flex offices, empty conference rooms and outside when multiple staff need to eat at the same time.
- All patients and visitors need to be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 on entry to the clinic. Staff need to complete self-screening at the beginning of their shift/workday.

### **Non-clinical settings**

- Staff need to wear a minimum of a medical grade mask however, the highest level of protection you can wear is highly encouraged (i.e. respirator, two medical grade masks).
- Staff should maintain approximately 6 feet of physical distance whenever possible. There may be occasions where spaces are tighter so ensure you are always masking properly when in shared spaces.
- In conference rooms, maintain 6 feet of physical distance and mask with a minimum of a medical grade mask.

- Only one staff may have their mask down to eat in the breakroom or other shared space at a time. Staff should spread out to flex offices, empty conference rooms and outside when multiple staff need to eat at the same time.

Please contact Infection Prevention/Employee Health Program Manager, Katrina Collins MN, RN at [katrina.collins@nwkidney.org](mailto:katrina.collins@nwkidney.org) or 206-901-8713 with any questions.