

When the public health emergency related to COVID-19 ending on May 11, 2023, appropriate adjustments to our masking requirements were implemented. Since that time, Infection Prevention team's surveillance has observed no increase in staff or patient exposures or transmission of COVID-19. Additionally, hospitalizations related to the virus continue to trend downward, as does the patient mortality rate.

With the above in mind, we are comfortable further relaxing our masking policies on **July 3**, as follows:

1. Masking will shift to **optional** for staff members and most patients.
2. Patients with **fever or respiratory symptoms** will be required to mask.
3. Our staff will mask when indicated for transmission precautions (e.g., obtaining samples or caring for a patient with fever, respiratory symptoms, or other symptoms of communicable illness.)
4. As always, **anyone who prefers to mask**, or has a **weakened immune system**, is encouraged to do so.
5. Masks will continue to be available in patient care areas for the foreseeable future.

Yale New Haven Hospital, Yale Medicine, and Northeast Medical Group will implement the same policy, effective July 1.

Thank you for your continued patience and collaboration as we navigate the final stages of the COVID-19 emergency.