




POLICY/PROCEDURE	FACIAL COVERINGS	
Subject: Standards for Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control	Effective: July 2023	
Approved by: 	Date: 7/21/2023	
Reviewed	Date:	

PURPOSE:

The Purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for appropriate use of facial coverings for infection control in accordance with 59AER23-2. This policy aims to ensure compliance, mitigate risks, and promote a safe and productive environment for all stakeholders associated with Plymouth Harbor Inc.

SCOPE:

The Facial Covering policy applies to all team members, contractors, visitors, third-party individuals, or entities interacting with Plymouth Harbor Inc.

DEFINITIONS:

Common Area: refers to areas in a healthcare setting where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

Team Member: refers to any person under employment or contract of a health care setting including healthcare practitioners, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, students, and volunteers.

Health care setting: refers to any place where health care practitioners and or healthcare providers practice their profession or provide services.

Patient: refers to a person receiving services from a healthcare practitioner or healthcare provider.

Sterile areas: refers to locations where surgery is conducted or where procedures that require aseptic techniques are performed.

Sterile procedure: refers to aseptic procedures with the goal of minimizing the risk of microbial contamination to reduce the rate of invasive or surgical site infection.

Visitor: refers to any person in a healthcare setting who is not a Team Member or patient of the healthcare setting.

Policy Statements:

- 1) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will exercise the right to require a patient to wear a facial covering only when the patient is in a common area of the **health care setting** and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
- 2) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will exercise the right to require a visitor 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 sterile areas of the health care setting or an area where sterile procedures are being performed,
 - c) In an in-patient or clinical room with a patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or
 - d) Visiting 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 Team Members 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.
- 3) Opt-Out Guidelines are as follows:
 - a) Pursuant to 59AER23-2, Residents may opt-out of wearing a facial covering in accordance with the Florida Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, section 381.026, F.S.
 - b) Pursuant to 59AER23-2, Visitors may opt-out of wearing a facial covering if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available.
- 4) Pursuant to 59AER23-2, Team Members may opt out of facial covering requirements unless a Team Member is:
 - i) Conducting sterile procedures,
 - ii) Working in a sterile area,
 - iii) 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 Team Members 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,
 - iv) With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation, or
 - v) Engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.
- 5) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will maintain a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to promote compliance. PPE will be available as indicated/upon request to all stakeholders associate with Plymouth Harbor Inc.

Distribution of Policy:

- 1) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will inform residents of policy through the company communication platform and website. A printed copy will be made available upon request for those residents who wish to receive it.
- 2) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will inform visitors of policy verbally as needed, and through the company website. A printed copy will be made available upon request for those visitors who wish to receive it.
- 3) Plymouth Harbor Inc. will educate Team Members on policy upon hire and periodically as need arises. A copy will be made available on the S: Drive, and through the company website. A printed copy will be made available upon request for those Team Members who wish to receive it.

REFERENCES

[59AER23-2 Final Text.pdf \(myflorida.com\)](#)

[Chapter 381 Section 026 - 2022 Florida Statutes \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

Acknowledgement of Policy Receipt

_____ I have received the Facial Covering Policy from Plymouth Harbor Inc.
(Initials)

_____ I have reviewed and will abide by the rules and regulations outlined.
(Initials)

In the event of any questions or clarifications regarding the policy, I will not hesitate to reach out to my supervisor and/or the Vice President of Health Services for further information. It is my responsibility to familiarize myself with the contents of the policy and to ensure compliance.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____