



TO: Catholic Health Associates

FROM: Kevin Shiley, MD
Medical Director, Infection Prevention & Control

RE: Masking Update for all Catholic Health Associates

DATE: April 28, 2023

As a follow-up to last week's masking memo, Niagara County has now fallen below the CDC COVID-19 threshold. Therefore, associates, visitors, and patients no longer have to wear masks in any Catholic Health Hospital, Long Term Care facility, or Home Care setting in Erie and Niagara Counties, with two exceptions:

- **Associates who have not received a flu vaccine must continue to wear a mask until the NYS Commissioner of Health declares flu season is over.**
- **Associates on any long term care or subacute unit where a COVID case is present.**

Respiratory protection remains a critical part of universal precautions. Healthcare workers should use appropriate PPE when interacting with anyone who exhibits signs or symptoms of a potentially contagious respiratory condition, including COVID-19.

Masking is still needed for anyone entering our facilities who has ended isolation for COVID-19 up to 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Lastly, healthcare workers may continue to mask at their own discretion when working in any Catholic Health facility.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your Infection Control representative or speak with your department manager.