

Updated Face Mask Guidance at University of Utah Health

May 25, 2021

***U of U Health will regularly review and update this guidance as needed.
We appreciate your patience and understanding.***

While several studies have shown that COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective and face masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals in most settings, [recent guidance from the CDC specifically excludes health care settings](#).

The CDC continues to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine in health care settings and will update its guidance as new information becomes available. At this time, the CDC recommends that healthcare personnel (HCP), including those who are fully vaccinated, continue wearing face masks while at work to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

Considering these recommendations, U of U Health will observe the following guidance regarding the wearing of face masks in its facilities. These guidelines are designed to provide the best level of protection for patients, staff and clinicians and U of U Health will continually evaluate these guidelines based on what's in the best interest for patients.

- **Dedicated Clinical Facilities:**

In buildings dedicated to patient care, ALL faculty and staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) MUST continue wearing face masks and practicing physical distancing. This includes all hospitals, health centers and other patient-focused clinics. Please note that the CDC's updated [guidelines](#) for vaccinated individuals are not intended for health care settings.

- **Mixed-Use Facilities (Both Clinical and Administrative):**

Several buildings at U of U Health have space dedicated for both patient care and business operations and support. Because of our commitment to patient safety, faculty and staff working in buildings that conduct any level of patient care MUST continue wearing face masks and practicing physical distancing.

- **Non-Clinical Facilities:**

For buildings where no patient care is delivered, face masks will continue to be encouraged but will not be required for individuals who are fully vaccinated. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear face masks and practice physical distancing as per guidance from the CDC.

General Information and Reminders:

- Face masks remain an effective means of preventing infection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people.
- U of U Health continues to strongly encourage faculty, staff and members of our community to be vaccinated.
- Individuals are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series of the Pfizer/Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.
- The vaccine may be less effective in some with immunocompromising conditions, and these individuals should ask their medical provider about the potential need to continue masking and social distancing.
- As always, it is important to take care of yourself: Stay home if you are sick.