
HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19

Order Requiring

Masking of Healthcare Workers

Date Order Issued: August 3, 2023

Effective Date: August 4, 2023

This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.

This Order amends, restates, and supersedes any masking orders issued by the Long Beach Health Officer.

A digital copy of this Order may be found at www.longbeach.gov/covid19 or by scanning the QR Code below.



Summary: Although the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services continues to strongly recommend that all healthcare personnel (HCP) be up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, in alignment with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) final rule, effective August 4, 2023, COVID-19 vaccination for HCP will no longer be required. Wearing a surgical mask or respirator during patient care and in patient care areas will continue to be mandated.

Despite improvements of knowledge about COVID-19 and availability of resources, the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including other future variants or subvariants, and other circulating respiratory viruses remain a concern for all Long Beach residents. COVID-19 and respiratory diseases however pose a particular risk to the health of medically vulnerable residents and people who might be exposed through necessity based on their circumstances. Patients, clients, and residents in healthcare have little choice about their potential exposure to COVID-19 when they seek care or reside in congregate settings, and many of them are at greater risk for COVID-19-related complications. Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and the other Healthcare Facility types identified in this order are particularly high-risk settings where COVID-19 outbreaks can have severe consequences for vulnerable populations including hospitalization, severe illness, and death. The settings identified in the Order are places with frequent close contact between facility workers and highly vulnerable patients, including elderly, chronically ill, critically ill, medically fragile, and disabled individuals. COVID-19 vaccination continue to remain the most important and most effective strategy to prevent serious

illness and death from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the US have been shown to be highly safe and effective at providing protection against severe disease and death and are recommended by the CDC for all populations for whom the vaccine is authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration. Another important protection in these settings is the use of a surgical mask or respirator by HCP, which reduces both the risk of infection for HCP and reduces the risk of them transmitting COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses to patients, clients, and residents.

This Order directs all Healthcare Personnel (HCP), as defined below, are required to wear a surgical mask or a respirator when providing patient care or working in Patient Care Areas.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 120175, 120215, 120220, AND 120225 THE CITY OF LONG BEACH HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

I. ALL HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK WHEN PROVIDING PATIENT CARE OR WORKING IN PATIENT CARE AREAS

- Healthcare Personnel (HCP) are required to wear a surgical mask or a respirator while providing patient care or working in Patient Care Areas in Healthcare Facilities, including clinical areas where patients are seen. HCP are not required to mask in other non-patient care areas, including, but not limited to, staff breakrooms and administrative offices.
- Patients and visitors are not required to wear masks, although masks remain recommended.
- This masking policy will be reassessed before September 30, 2023 to take into account the updated FDA and CDC guidance regarding the timing of the COVID vaccination series and risks associated with COVID infection.

II. **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. "City" means City of Long Beach.
- b. "Health Care Facility" or "Healthcare Facilities" include:
 - i. General Acute Care Hospitals
 - ii. Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)
 - iii. Intermediate Care Facilities
 - iv. Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
 - v. Adult Day Care Centers
 - vi. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and PACE Centers
 - vii. Ambulatory Surgery Centers
 - viii. Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
 - ix. Clinics and Doctors' Offices
(including behavioral health, surgical and school clinics)
 - x. Dialysis Centers
 - xi. Hospice Facilities
 - xii. Pediatric Day Health and Respite Care Facilities
 - xiii. Residential Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities
- c. "Health Officer" means the Health Officer of the City of Long Beach.
- d. "Order" refers to this document entitled, "Order Requiring Masking and Vaccination of Healthcare Workers"
- e. "Patient Care Area" means any area or space within a healthcare facility wherein patients are intended to be examined or treated
- f. "Healthcare Personnel (HCP)" includes workers providing service within the jurisdiction of the Long Beach Health Officer, regardless of where the HCP's agency is located. "Healthcare Personnel (HCP)" refers to paid and unpaid employees, contractors, students, and volunteers who work in indoor and other settings where (1) care is provided to patients or (2) patients have access for any purpose, leading to direct or indirect contact between the worker and patients or exposure to SARS-CoV-2 airborne aerosols at a Healthcare Facility. This includes HCP serving in health care who have the potential for direct or indirect contact with patients, residents or SARS-CoV-2 aerosols, including (but not limited to):
 - i. Physicians and physician assistants
 - ii. Nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing assistants
 - iii. Medical assistants
 - iv. Medical technicians
 - v. Pharmacists
 - vi. Phlebotomists
 - vii. Therapists
 - viii. Students and trainees
 - ix. Contractual staff not employed by the health care facility, and
 - x. Individuals providing hospice care services in a home or in a licensed facility.

III. PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

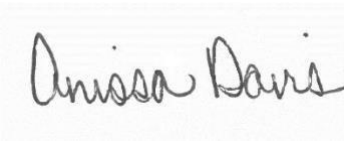
Although the statewide and local emergency declarations have ended, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses continue to pose a risk to patients, clients, residents, and HCP at Healthcare Facilities. Having HCP at those facilities wear a surgical mask or respirator when providing care and when in patient care areas protects the HCP and the patients, clients or residents. Although protection from wearing a surgical mask or respirator is not perfect, evidence shows that it is an important part of reducing the spread of COVID in these types of settings.

The purpose of this Order is to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and is based on scientific evidence and best practices to prevent severe negative health outcomes due to COVID-19, protect individuals at higher risk, and to protect the health care systems from a surge of cases into its emergency rooms and hospitals.

Masking requirements in healthcare reflect the desire to protect the most vulnerable populations, including people who are elderly, immunocompromised, or have underlying health conditions.

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services continues to monitor data regarding the risks posed by COVID-19, including the impact of masking.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anissa Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anissa Davis, MD, DrPH,
Health Officer, City of Long
Beach Date: August 3, 2023