

## COVID-19 Update – MN Mask Update – 5.18.21

**To: Resident, Family Members and Team Members – The Waters Senior Living**

The CDC and MDH has recently released some important guidelines and updates related to the requirement for masks. This is another indication of life gradually becoming more like it was before the pandemic.

### **Here is what we know:**

- Governor Walz announced on May 13<sup>th</sup> his plans to remove the ***broad*** mask mandate in Minnesota.
- However, Governor Walz also indicated that the change would not affect the requirement for staff, Residents, and visitors to wear masks based upon the CDC, MDH and CMS requirements.
- We also know that municipalities such as counties, cities, towns, and townships have the ability to continue mask mandates within their jurisdiction.

### **What does this mean specifically for our Waters MN Communities (CDC, MDH and CMS requirements for congregate settings)?**

- The guidance is largely based upon vaccination status. Since we have a very strong vaccination status for Residents, we are optimistic that the Communities will begin to feel the reduced restrictions.
- Residents should remain masked when there is an unvaccinated Resident in the same room, space, or area.
- This means that Residents should remain masked in hallways and going to/from activities or dining.
- The Community leadership will educate unvaccinated Residents specifically related to the guidance and how to notify Team Members or other Residents during the below scenarios.
- We would appreciate your support of the process that we are implementing, which is aligned to the CDC and CMS guidelines.

### **When is mask use optional for Residents?**

- If all Residents participating in an activity are fully vaccinated, they do **NOT** need to physically distance and they do **NOT** need to wear a mask.
- If all Residents in the dining area are fully vaccinated, they do **NOT** need to physically distance, and they do **NOT** need to wear a mask.

- If a Resident is unvaccinated in the above scenarios, everyone should wear a mask, and the unvaccinated Resident will need to physically distance from the other participants.
- If a Resident is fully vaccinated and they are visiting with someone in their apartment, they (Resident) can choose not to wear a mask.
- If a fully vaccinated Resident is visiting with a fully vaccinated visitor in the Resident's apartment, neither is required to wear a mask.

### **When do Team Members need to wear masks?**

- Team Members must wear masks in all Resident care areas (common areas, nurses' stations, hallways, apartments).
- Team Members who are fully vaccinated and in non-Resident care areas such as breakrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, etc. are not required to wear a mask and do **NOT** need to physically distance.
- If there is an unvaccinated team member present, all team members will need to wear a mask and the unvaccinated team member will need to physically distance from the rest of the staff members present.

### **When do Visitors need to wear masks?**

- As with our Team Members, ***all visitors***, regardless of vaccination status should wear a mask when in common areas, or going to/from Resident's apartment.
- For fully vaccinated visitors who are visiting fully vaccinated Residents, all parties can remove their masks when in the Resident's apartment and do **NOT** need to physically distance.
- Unvaccinated visitors should wear a mask at all times while visiting within the community, including in the Resident's apartment.

**If you have any questions, or concerns please reach out to your Community's Executive Director.**

Sincerely,

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