

COVID-19 Protocols - Effective 2.28.22

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Guidelines for masks, eyewear, symptoms and testing, etc.

COVID -19 PROTOCOLS

Effective Date: 6/9/2022

This protocol may only be modified by the SIU Medicine Dean and CEO or designee in response to community experience and needs.

We continue to see a steady increase in COVID-19 activity and associated hospitalizations in the Springfield area. Effectively immediately, we will move to a higher level of precautions across the SIU Medicine system. The updated mitigation policy is below:

- **Masks are highly recommended in all SIU Medicine/SOM buildings and settings.**
- Masks are still required in all clinical settings.
- Please continue to self-screen each day. Do not come to work if you are feeling ill.
- If you have not had the COVID-19 vaccination series and/or booster, please consider doing so to protect yourself and your community.

MASKS AND EYEWEAR

- All SIU employees and clinical learners must wear a standard facemask while in any clinical environment regardless of patient contact and regardless of vaccination status.
- SIU employees and learners working in non-clinical settings may remove their masks IF they are fully vaccinated with a booster and asymptomatic.
- Eye protection is recommended but optional for direct patient interaction.

COVID SYMPTOMS AND TESTING

- Unvaccinated employees who have filed for a religious and medical exemption should continue to undergo weekly surveillance testing at the Maddison building (saliva-based test).
- All employees, clinical staff/providers, and learners must contact Employee Health for COVID-19 symptoms and a temperature of 100.0 F or greater. Employees and learners must self-report to the Employee Health Nurse (217-492-2446) or HALO “SIU Employee Health Nurse / Risk Team” for any positive symptoms prior to presenting at work or if becoming

symptomatic during the workday. Testing is recommended for all symptomatic individuals according to employee health recommendations.

- Hand hygiene will be practiced before and after each patient contact.

PATIENTS AND VISITORS

- Adult patients will be allowed 2 accompanying visitors.
- Pediatric patients will only be allowed up to 2 accompanying visitors.
- All patients must wear a standard face mask in the clinical setting.
- Any patients presenting without a mask will be provided one.
- If patients are displaying any COVID symptoms, please continue to follow the protocol currently in place for the care of these patients following the infection prevention guidelines. Any patients presenting without a mask will be provided one.

MEETINGS

- Meetings/gatherings in non-clinical spaces should not be overcrowded. Because our organizational vaccination rate is very high, we can safely return to 100% capacity for rooms for all SIU events. Events may be planned using the full 100% policy. The policy for graduation and other events that are being planned for later in the year may be changed if community transmission rates rise again.
- Masks are encouraged regardless of vaccine status; however boosted employees are permitted to remove their masks.

PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL

- We will return to our previous travel policy. Travel that was approved by the specific department or office prior to COVID will revert to departmental or office approval. International professional travel will be allowed. However, great care should be taken in scheduling and departing for such travel. Prolongation of any travel due to delays or detainment due to COVID will not be reimbursed with institutional funds unless that travel was done at the direction of the institution. In that event, the policy may be relaxed.

EXPOSURES

- For any exposures, vaccinated and boosted employees need not quarantine if they remain asymptomatic. If any COVID-related symptoms develop in a vaccinated employee who was a close contact of a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, they must contact the Employee Health Nurse. All unboosted close contacts of a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 must report to the Employee Health Nurse (217-492-2446) or HALO “SIU Employee Health

Nurse / Risk Team” for recommendations on quarantine, further testing for return to work.

PPE CONTINGENCY CAPACITY STRATEGY

- Facemasks will be worn by all patients and visitors. Any patients presenting without a mask will be provided one.
- Department leadership may obtain additional PPE for their assigned areas by requesting the type and amount of PPE needed to ppe@siumed.edu. CDC considerations can be reviewed [here](#).
- Extended use of eye protection can be applied to disposable and reusable devices.
- Eye protection should be removed and reprocessed if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through.
- If a disposable face shield or goggles is reprocessed, it should be dedicated to one clinical staff/provider and reprocessed whenever it is visibly soiled or removed (e.g., when leaving the isolation area) prior to putting it back on.
- Eye protection should be discarded if damaged (e.g., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the provider, if visibility is obscured and reprocessing does not restore visibility).
- Clinical staff/providers should take care not to touch their eye protection. If they touch or adjust their eye protection they must immediately perform hand hygiene. CDC considerations can be reviewed [here](#).