UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures

Policy Title: Ambulatory Clinic Patient, Guest, and Visitor Masking Policy

Policy Number: 950-03-039

Responsible Officer:	Chief Medical Officer
Responsible Office:	Clinical Affairs
Origination Date:	01/2023
Date of Revision:	N/A
Scope:	UCR Health Patients, Visitors, and Guests

I. Policy Summary

UCR Health strives to ensure a safe environment for patients, visitors, and employees. To protect the wellbeing of all, a mask policy will be implemented in accordance with Federal¹, State² and Local Guidance³

II. Definitions

Patients: Individuals seeking care at a UCR Health clinical location

Visitors: Individuals accompanying patients

Guests: Individuals invited to UCR Health clinical locations

III. Policy Text

- **A.** Masking requirements will be based on Federal, State, and Local guidance and can change to maintain compliance.
- **B.** Patients, Visitors, and Guests are expected to comply with requirements when present at a UCR Health location.
- **C.** Signage for masking requirements will be posted in clinic locations.

IV. Responsibilities

All UCR Health Employees to enforce masking requirements based on Federal, State, and Local Guidance

V. Procedures

A. Patient, Visitor, & Guest Refusal of Compliance

Refusal of masking requirements will result in denial of entry into a UCR Health facility. If the patient appointment does not require a physical examination the appointment may be converted to telehealth.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html#:~:text=with%20COVID%2D19.-,People%20may%20choose%20to%20mask%20at%20any%20time.,about%20how%20to%20protect%20yourself.

 $^{^2\} https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx$

³ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

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B. Masking Exceptions and Limitations

Patients are required to wear face masks while in healthcare settings unless physical exam requires removal of face mask. Face mask should be immediately returned upon completion of the required physical examination.

C. Posting of Signage

Signage should be posted throughout the clinic and in the exam room which notifies patients they must keep their face mask on, even if coughing or sneezing occurs.

D. Changes in Law and Guidance

In the event of a change in law, regulation, guidance, etc. notice will be provided and such change will be considered effective upon receipt. In the instance of any discrepancies between this policy and those updates will prevail until the policy can be updated to reflect those changes.

Approvals:	
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (03/14/2023)	
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