

Provider Notes Regarding Masking, MultiCare System Guidance

Governor Inslee announced the requirement to wear face coverings in public spaces throughout Washington starting on Friday, June 26. His order requires face coverings when inside and when outside with less than six (6) feet of social distancing. There is good science showing that this reduces the spread of COVID-19 and many other respiratory infections.

If a patient asks for a note or letter exempting them from wearing a mask:

- MultiCare Health System physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) will not write notes for patients to exempt them from wearing masks.

- For those patients who have a condition that would be worsened by wearing a mask:
 - The patient should understand that they are at increased risk of complications or death from COVID-19 due to the combination of
 - their underlying medical condition, and
 - their increased risk of COVID-19 infection by not wearing a mask
 - Any patient at increased risk from COVID-19 should be isolating themselves as the most effective way of preventing COVID-19
 - These patients may benefit from a social work consult for tools to keep them at home (e.g. grocery delivery, meal assistance, video visits to our providers)

- Objective criteria should be used in order to avoid bias against any subgroups of our patients.