

☑ Talking Points

August 3, 2020

This message is for all Bozeman Health employees from HR in coordination with Incident Command.

Updated Universal Mask and Face Covering Policy; Note New Exemptions to the Policy**Here's what's happening...**

Recently, we have seen an uptick in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the community. As such, we have had employees exposed to COVID-19 positive individuals in social situations and thus directed by the Gallatin City-County Health Department to quarantine for 14 days.

First, the safety of our employees and patients is the number one priority at Bozeman Health. We want to ensure that all employees are aware of our comprehensive, universal face covering policy. Please be diligent in following this policy and adhere to the six foot social distancing guidelines as well as the regular and thorough hand-washing guidance that we have instituted at all Bozeman Health care sites. We have asked managers to model this policy throughout our care site and enforce it with their staff and departments.

Secondly, this updated policy includes new exemption criteria for visitors and patients. The exemption process will take place as follows: a patient will receive a mask exempt letter from their primary care physician if they meet exemption criteria per the policy. They will then present this letter at the entrance and after screening, receive an exemption sticker to wear to their appointment destination. When the patient presents to the clinic location, clerical staff will verify they have the mask exempt letter in EPIC and give the patient an exemption badge with the instruction that they need to wear the badge whenever they are in a Bozeman Health care site, including any future appointments, throughout the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. If a patient presents at an appointment without a mask and without an exemption letter, please follow your department's established workflow.

The updated [Universal Mask and Face Covering policy](#), [FAQs](#), exemption [badge](#) and [sticker](#) are attached. If your area is in need of exemption badges and stickers please see your manager.

Here's why...

The safety of every Bozeman Health patient, visitor and staff member is our top priority. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and new information becomes available, we have carefully considered the optimal strategies to ensure the safety of our patients and workforce, anticipating short and long-term needs. We want our workforce to feel safe and confident as they continue to respond to this pandemic.

Here's what you need to do...

Please carefully read and review the attached updated policy, the FAQs and review the exemption details and the new badge. This policy applies to all staff in all Bozeman Health care site locations, including satellite or temporary sites (i.e. drive-up testing).

Questions or comments? Contact Incidentcommand@bozemanhealth.org.