

Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) Providers

From: Steve Peiser, Senior Director of Network Management

Re: **Recommendations for Resuming Deferred and Preventive Health Care**

Date: May 18, 2020

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that as medical practices resume seeing patients in person, providers have established procedures that require patients and visitors to wear face coverings.

Ventura County officials continue to stress the importance of staying home as much as possible – especially for those in high-risk categories. They cautioned that while the county order expires on May 31, restrictions will be in place beyond that day. Please continue to adhere to the updated guidelines.

The following are CDPH's recommendations for patient face coverings in various health care settings.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is essential to protect health care workers and patients; therefore, the following is recommended when resuming services. Facilities should have a plan for circumstances when patients or visitors are allowed to arrive without face coverings.

- Patients and visitors, when allowed, should wear masks (including when provided by facility staff) or cloth face coverings. Practices are encouraged to educate patients about proper face coverings, consistent with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDPH, and reserving specialized masks (i.e., N95) for health care employees who are at increased risk.

PPE Minimum Requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) settings:

- Patients, while not in their rooms, and visitors, when allowed, must wear masks or cloth face coverings. Practices are encouraged to educate patients and visitors about proper face coverings, consistent with CDC and CDPH recommendations, and reserving specialized masks (i.e., N95) for health care employees who are at increased risk.

Facility and Office Site Standards

Safeguards at facilities and offices will play an important role in continuing the fight against COVID-19. Therefore, facilities and offices resuming services should take additional steps to protect the workforce and patients being served.

- Require face coverings for all patients, with the exceptions of SNF patients while in their room, patients receiving services that would not allow for the use of a mask, or residents of facilities with personal rooms while in their room.

Additional considerations for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) care

- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) have had higher rates of COVID-19 cases and extra precautions will continue to be necessary when considering placement. Special considerations should be considered to protect high risk patients residing in SNFs.
- Require facial coverings for visitors, when allowed, and staff.

To view the full list of recommendations from CDPH for resuming deferred and preventative health care, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) Provider Relations Team at ProviderRelations@goldchp.org. Thank you.