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MEMO

DATE: Thursday, August 5, 2021

TO: Children's Minnesota employees

FROM: Wendy Berg, BSN, RN, CIC, manager of infection prevention and control

SUBJECT: Updated masking guidance

Dear colleagues,

Due to the rapid increase in cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant in Minnesota, and new evidence about transmission of the Delta variant, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has updated masking guidance for healthcare workers. Children's Minnesota mask guidelines have been updated to reflect this change. **The key change is that masking requirements are the same for both vaccinated and unvaccinated healthcare workers.**

Effective immediately:

- **Wear a face mask while at work on site at any Children's Minnesota location, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Wear a face mask in conference rooms, classrooms and anywhere meetings, classes and other in-person gatherings take place, even if everyone present is vaccinated.
- Wear a face mask in the break room unless actively eating or drinking.
- Social distancing, limiting number of staff in a break room, and eating meals outside are also recommended to reduce risk of transmission. Social distancing is particularly important when masks are removed for eating or drinking.
- Masks may be removed when working in an office or cubicle where at least 6 feet of distance from others can be maintained.

Please see the [Meetings, Gatherings and Vendors document](#) on the Star Net COVID-19 page for additional details.