

## COVID Visitor, Masking, Temp and Screening Policy Updates Effective Friday, **MARCH 18, 2022**

### Dear Employees and Providers:

We are now in a LOW risk level for COVID. Going forward updates and guidance will be driven from COVID Risk Levels and Operations P&P in infection control binder.

- Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging.
- Masks offer protection against all COVID variants as well as the flu. CDC recommendation remains for masking in presence of patients.

**Visitor Policy** – Visitation will be dependent on COVID risk level we are in. See P&P AGH Pandemic Visitation and COVID Risk levels and Operations. **ALL visitors must be screened for symptoms on presentation to the hospital.**

- Currently, or within the last 24 hours, have you had fever greater than 100.4, signs of symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat. (If a visitor, vendor, or contractor shows ANY of the listed symptoms, do not allow entry)
- Visitors will still need to wear masks in the hospital.

*Children* are now allowed to visit (see P&P for specifics). Over age 2 must be masked. Visitors that present ill or with symptoms will not be allowed to stay.

**Abbey Café:** Opens up for full operations and seating in Low risk level for COVID. Masks are to be worn to and from cafeteria and while in cafeteria due to presence of patients but can be removed when seated for meal.

### Masking in Low risk level for COVID:

- **VACCINATED EMPLOYEES:** Masking required in patient care areas, hallways, and all common areas. May be unmasked in work areas, break rooms, meeting rooms, offices. Any patient interaction requires a mask to be worn.
- **UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES:** Masking at all times. Failure to do this will result in disciplinary action.

Hospital approved masks only. No cloth masks allowed. Masks should be worn over nose and chin. All patient and visitors will wear masks in facility. Visitors unwilling to comply with our masking policy will be asked to leave, no exceptions. This is being done in alignment with the requirements set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health.

All vaccinated employees' badges must show the "COVID-19 Vaccinated" sticker which can be obtained through Employee Health.

## Delivery and Vendors, Contract and Students

Vendors, contract employees and students must follow the same masking guidelines as all of our employees and visitors and **should not be allowed in the building without a mask.**

### Employees:

- Employees should continue to self-monitor their health daily and not come to work with symptoms of COVID or flu. If experiencing symptoms, **stay home and** contact employee health at 898-6242 or 380-7676 for further guidance and testing.
- Reminder: Change your facemask daily and do not reuse PPE.

## RETURN TO WORK GUIDANCE –

COVID positive employees may return to work on day **5** - **if**:

- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without use of medications **and**
- Symptoms (ie cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

Employees will be cleared to return to work through Employee Health. Contact employee health at 898-6242 or 380-7676.

## COVID-19 Vaccines:

Louisiana and Vermillion parish vaccination rates are improving however we still have work to do. . Vaccination remains paramount to the health of our patients and colleagues.

- **Employee COVID Vaccines:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or booster COVID vaccines are available through employee health **EVERY Wednesday from 6:30am until 3:00pm.** Call ext 6242 or 6285 to make an appointment for your vaccination.
- **Non – employee COVID Vaccines:** COVID vaccines are provided weekly at the Erath Rural Health Clinic. Call 937-5944 to schedule an appointment.

## Monoclonal Antibody Infusions (MAB) – currently offered at AGH

- Now offering MAB infusion with new medications Sotrovimab and Bebtelovimab. Positive COVID test and a referral letter is necessary to schedule appointment. If you have any trouble accessing please call Employee Health Ext 6242 or 337-380-7676.

COVID-19 cases are at our lowest level in a long time. However we do have a new strain BA 2.2 a sub variant of Omnicron in China we are watching. The important thing to remember is that we have more tools to slow the spread of COVID-19 than we did at this time last year. We know layered prevention strategies can slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- If eligible, get boosted
- Be alert to your surroundings: Wear your masks in crowded public indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status
- Regardless of vaccination status, get tested before and after traveling and prior to gathering with others over the holidays
- Stay home if you are not feeling well
- Wash your hands frequently and well

If you have questions about vaccines, you can speak to a medical professional and learn about vaccination sites near you by calling Louisiana's vaccine hotline at 855-453-0774. For a list of locations near you, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine> or text your ZIP code to GETVAX (438829) in English or VACUNA (822862) in Spanish.

