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Advisory

Procedural Guidelines for PPE, Covid 19 Response (V 10, Final)

Date: 5/11/2023

Background:

Mass DPH has declared the end of the Public Health Emergency May 11, 2023. This is in large part due to steps taken during the pandemic to slow the spread of infection, allowing for COVID-19 to now be deemed an "endemic." Some of these measures included masking, social distancing, and vaccination. As such, DPH released updated guidance for healthcare facilities and EMS, summarized below:

Updates to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Effective at 0700 hours on *Thursday May 11, 2023* the following PPE Guidance shall take effect:

- The mandatory usage of facemasks on all responses may *cease*, with the following exceptions:
 - o Appropriate PPE shall be encouraged for employees interacting for all patients suspected of having, or confirmed to have COVID-19
 - o Members may, at their discretion, continue to utilize facemasks on calls for service
- Any patient experiencing respiratory illness viral illness or associated symptoms should have surgical mask applied, if able.
- Employees shall continue to comply with facility mandates regarding the wearing of facemask and other PPE, etc. This shall include but not limited to Urgent Care facilities, Hospitals, and group homes.
- In the event of periods of higher levels of community respiratory virus transmission employees should anticipate a reversal of this guidance to then include the use N95/KN95, Eye Protection, Gowns, and Gloves. This information will be disseminated as necessary.