

## Masking Guidance in Offices April 28, 2022

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we have made significant advances. We are well-armed with treatments and vaccinations that decrease the severity of illness should one become infected. Outside of vaccination, our primary defense tools have been good hand hygiene, masking (no longer mandated except in clinical care), and social distancing.

We are starting to see some increased positivity in our communities; **thus we recommend all staff considers donning a mask in the office environment if working in close contact** with another individual for any significant (greater than 15 minutes) time.

In areas where neither patients nor visitors are permitted, such as offices, break rooms and work rooms, staff may remove their masks if they so choose, but **we recommend all staff considers donning a mask in the office environment if working in close contact** with another individual for any significant (greater than 15 minutes) time.

Any staff entering the Malden Office Building must continue to wear a surgical mask to enter and exit the building, but may remove their masks once they are in the Malden Office.

All staff, patients and visitors must continue to wear a surgical mask at all times when in clinical and public areas at the HPH.

For some, the idea of being around colleagues without a mask is a welcome sign of better times. Others may have some trepidation or may have reason to continue to wear a mask to protect themselves. It is critically important that we respect each other's choices. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Bernice Burkarth or to your manager.