

Shell Point Assisted Living and Healthcare Communities

Policy on Facial Covering for Health Care Settings

Policy Statement:

Shell Point Assisted Living communities are committed to supporting individual decision-making regarding healthcare decisions while recognizing that at times this needs to be balanced with healthcare risks to the vulnerable individuals residing in our congregate settings. This policy is designed to support both the “Florida Medical Freedom Acts” and current Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control recommendations regarding transmission-based precautions for individuals exposed to, positive for, or exhibiting symptoms of any respiratory illness transmitted through droplets.

Background:

- Section 381.00316 of the Florida Statutes addresses discrimination by governmental and business entities based on healthcare choices. Addressed specifically in this legislation is a ban on mandates related to vaccination, testing, treatment choices, and use of facial coverings for in relationship to COVID-19. Section (2)(a) indicates that the Department of Health and “agency” (not defined) shall jointly develop standards for the appropriate use of facial coverings for infection control in health care settings.
- CDC recommendations for Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19 continue to recommend transmission-based precautions that include isolation, masking, and avoiding contact with people who are at high risk of getting very sick.
 - Isolation for five (5) days is recommended for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19
 - Isolation is also recommended for individuals who are sick and suspect that they have COVID-19, but do not yet have test results
 - Masking with a “high quality” mask is also recommended whenever around other individuals for 10 days following testing positive for COVID-19 or known exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Florida Department of Health addresses respiratory viruses including influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. These specific illnesses are spread through droplets from an infected person.

Procedure:

1. Shell Point will provide a surgical mask or KN95 mask to any individual upon request at entry to any of the Assisted Living facilities or Larsen Health Center.
2. Per currently recognized infection control protocols for droplet precautions, any visitor or employee who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of respiratory infection will be required to wear a well-fitting mask (surgical mask or KN95 mask) while in resident care areas or food preparation areas.
3. Per current CDC recommendations, any visitor or employee who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is symptomatic for COVID-19 but not tested, will be restricted from entering any healthcare area for five (5) days following a positive test or onset of symptoms. Exceptions to this may be granted by

the facility administrator, nurse manager, or Director of Nursing based on individual circumstances or needs at the time, i.e., crisis staffing, critically ill resident requesting family visit, etc.

4. Any resident who exhibits signs or symptoms of respiratory infection will be placed under transmission-based precautions, including isolation. Testing for COVID-19 and influenza will be offered. Transmission-based precautions will be discontinued based on resolution of the resident's symptoms and type of infection, if known.
5. If a resident tests positive for COVID-19, transmission-based precautions will include isolation for five (5) days and masking when leaving his/her room for 10 days following the positive COVID-19 test.
6. If a resident tests positive for influenza, transmission-based precautions will include isolation until fever free for 24 hours without a fever reducing medication. Masking with a well-fitting mask may also be required based on assessment of symptoms by a medical provider or the Infection Control nurse.