

## Updated Infection Prevention Guidelines for Staff Working in WUSM Clinic Areas (v. 5/18/2021)

### Scope:

WUSM clinic waiting rooms and shared workspaces for staff. As clinics return to pre-COVID operations, patient and staff volumes are increasing. Guidance around safely accommodating higher patient volumes and staffing needs is necessary. Outlined below are considerations and recommendations for clinic implementation to ensure safety of patients and staff while returning to normal operations.

### Current state considerations:

- COVID-19 transmission continues in the community
- WUSM cares for many patients at high risk for serious disease/death if infected
- CDC still currently recommends mask use in healthcare facilities
- Medical-grade respiratory protections (isolation/surgical masks, KN95 masks) provide more consistent protection than cloth masks and should be worn in clinical areas
- Symptom screening and medical evaluation remain critical to preventing transmission
  - Symptomatic staff should not report to work and contact Occupational health, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status

### Clinic recommendations:

#### I. Front desk and waiting areas

- a. Continue to maintain social distancing within clinic waiting rooms with chairs spaced at least 6 feet apart
- b. Continue to require and provide masks to patients and visitors within the clinic waiting area(s).
- c. Ensure that hand hygiene products are available to patients in the waiting room

#### II. Staff workspaces (e.g. physician workspace, nurses' station/workspaces)

- a. Social distancing is recommended to the extent possible, but is not mandatory
- b. Staff should continue to mask in shared workspaces. Masks should be medical grade, not cloth.
- c. Food consumption is not permitted within shared workspaces; lowering mask for brief drinking is allowable
- d. Ensure that hand hygiene products are available within workspaces

#### III. Staff lounges and break areas

- a. Staff lounges and break areas should continue to be setup to provide social distancing of at least 6 feet apart
- b. Breaks and meals are staggered to prevent large groups eating during the same time
- c. Disinfectant wipes are available for staff to wipe down tables after eating
- d. Hand hygiene products are made available to staff within the break areas

### Future state considerations:

- WUSM will continue to monitor CDC, state, and local guidelines and community transmission rates and revise guidance at needed. If local rates were to increase, more restrictive measures may again become necessary.