

A message from **Tina Freese Decker**
President & CEO
BSH System



March 14, 2022

It has been two years since Michigan's first positive case of COVID-19 was reported. Today, we are encouraged that statewide COVID-19 positivity rates are falling, and we are grateful for the impact of vaccines as significantly fewer people, including our team members, are seeking care and being treated for COVID-19.

With this positive news, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently revising [masking recommendations for the public](#), we are updating our masking requirements for BSH System:

Updates on masking requirements for team members, effective Monday, March 14

- Clinical care locations: Masks continue to be required regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status per recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - Includes locations where patients/visitors could be present including hallways, lobbies, cafeterias, workspaces not enclosed with four walls and a closed door, patient transport vans/busses. Masks remain required in these areas regardless of if any patient/visitor is actually present.
 - Masks are required for unvaccinated team members in any space.
 - The masking requirements for patients and visitors in clinical settings remain the same.
- Non-clinical care, corporate and Priority Health locations: Masks are not required for individuals who have received their initial dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine. (Currently, this means having had the first two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine.)
 - Includes office spaces, conference rooms, break rooms, workspaces enclosed with four walls and a closed door.
 - Masks are required for unvaccinated team members in any space.

The health and safety of our team members, patients, health plan members and visitors continue to be our highest priority. We must trust one another to do the right thing with integrity, as we enjoy fewer restrictions. Also, please respect your team members who choose to continue to wear a mask in any setting.

We will continue to watch any new variants and adjust guidance as needed.

If you have specific questions, please talk with your leader.

Sustaining a flexible workplace culture

Over the past two years, many teams have embraced a flexible working environment effectively.

We are continuing to support this flexible working environment where applicable. The following guidelines are:

- Where work can be accomplished off-site, we will continue to offer and encourage team members flexibility to do so.
- We are preparing our facilities for on-site work to support team member preference and when it is more productive for collaboration, brainstorming and teambuilding.
- More information will be available for leaders and team members in the coming weeks.

I am excited to move to this next phase as we continue to learn, innovate and embrace change.