

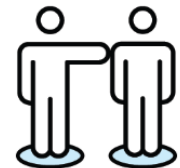
# Changes to Masking Policies

State and local health agencies have announced new changes to masking guidance in healthcare facilities. **These changes will take effect on Monday, April 10, 2023.** Please read the information below to learn what will change, and how it affects the Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) community.



## What is changing about the masking policy at CHLA?

Our new masking policy is that masks are **required** in specific areas of our campus and in specific situations.



This policy applies to all patients, research participants, visitors, and healthcare workers.

Masks are required in:	Generally, masks are required when:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient Rooms</li><li>• Clinic/exam rooms</li><li>• Waiting rooms</li><li>• Family Resource Center</li><li>• Check-in desks in or near waiting areas</li><li>• Playrooms/Teen Lounge</li><li>• Hallways when groups gather for Family Centered Rounds</li><li>• Spaces in or near treatment service areas, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dialysis</li><li>○ PACU</li><li>○ Radiology</li><li>○ Dentistry</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You are in the same location for 15 minutes or more.</li><li>• There is contact between:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Patients</li><li>○ Visitors</li><li>○ Research participants</li><li>○ CHLA team members</li></ul></li><li>• An arm's-length distance is not possible, including in:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Meeting rooms</li><li>○ Indoor patient events</li><li>○ Hallways</li></ul></li></ul>

Masking is **recommended, but not required** in all areas of the CHLA campus, including:

- Nursing stations
- Bathrooms
- Gift shop
- Patient/visitor elevators
- Lobby/First floor of healthcare buildings
- Hallways within a unit or clinic
- Cafeteria and dining area
- Staff elevators

**CHLA continues to recommend physical distancing, vaccinations, and masking to protect against COVID-19.**

### **Can I visit my child if I have symptoms of COVID-19?**

Caregivers and visitors who have symptoms of illness should stay home until symptoms are gone. CHLA masking policy requires masks for all visitors with symptoms of COVID-19.

### **Why are these changes happening?**

CHLA must follow rules and regulations set by state and local health agencies. Our policies are changing to follow updated guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH).

#### **Symptoms of COVID-19:**

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Cough or sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Loss of sense of taste
- Loss of sense of smell
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

### **Are CHLA's policies different from other hospitals?**

CHLA may have different policies than other healthcare facilities. This is because some communities have different needs than others. Healthcare facilities can make their own policies as long as they follow local health agency guidelines.

We know that it can be confusing to follow different policies in different areas. Please visit the LA County Dept of Public Health website (link below) for information on current requirements for our area. Revisit the link to keep aware of any new changes. We will also continue to inform you on any changes that apply to CHLA.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/reopening-la.htm>