



# ACKERMAN<sup>™</sup>

## Cancer Center

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## Masking Policy & Procedures

### POLICY

For the well-being and safety of our Patients, Visitors, and Staff Members, the use of masks may be recommended in specific situations. This includes instances where a Patient, Staff Member, and/or a Visitor shows signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be transmitted through droplets or airborne means.

### PURPOSE

Implement consistent standards and procedures for the proper utilization of masks at all Ackerman Cancer Center Locations, adhering to emergency regulations set forth by the Florida Department of Health and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Please note that this Policy is subject to modifications or updates as the Department and the Agency finalize the rulemaking process concerning the use of facial coverings in the healthcare environment.

### SCOPE

The guidelines and procedures outlined in this Policy will take precedence whenever Ackerman Cancer Center promotes or mandates the use of masks at any of its Locations. All other Ackerman Cancer Center policies, procedures, and directives that advocate or demand mask usage must adhere to the standards, processes, and provisions outlined herein. This Policy is applicable to all Staff Members, Patients, and Visitors.

It is important to note that this Policy does not encompass the utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is recommended and/or mandated for protection against chemical or physical hazards. Separate protocols govern the use of PPE in such scenarios.

### MASKING PROCEDURE

Ackerman Cancer Center reserves the right to request or encourage Patients, Visitors, Staff Members to wear masks in accordance with Ackerman Cancer Center's internal policies, procedures, and protocols, as well as applicable state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations. The recommendations and/or requirements regarding masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) will be subject to periodic review and reassessment in alignment with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations, especially during times of community outbreaks.

- A. **Patients.** If Ackerman Cancer Center mandates the use of masks, they may be asked to wear a mask while present in the common areas of Ackerman Cancer Center Locations. This requirement applies specifically when the Patient displays signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be transmitted through droplets or airborne means, or when they have received a formal diagnosis of such a disease.

- B. **Staff Members.** Staff Members are advised to refrain from entering Ackerman Cancer Center Locations if they are unwell, except when seeking necessary treatment. Should Ackerman Cancer Center mandate the use of masks, Staff Members might be obligated to wear masks in alignment with Ackerman Cancer Center's internal policies, procedures, and protocols, as well as in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.
- C. **Visitors.** If Ackerman Cancer Center mandates the use of masks, they may be asked to wear a mask while present in the common areas of Ackerman Cancer Center Locations. This requirement applies specifically when the Visitor displays signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that can be transmitted through droplets or airborne means, or when they have received a formal diagnosis of such a disease.
- D. **General.** Ackerman Cancer Center retains the authority to mandate the use of masks at Ackerman Cancer Center Locations in additional situations that align with national and state standards, as well as state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.

## **OPT-OUT OF MASKING PROCEDURES**

If Ackerman Cancer Center encourages or mandates the use of masks at any of its Locations, Patients, Staff Members, and Visitors may choose to opt-out from wearing masks under the following conditions:

- A. If there is an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention available, both Patients and Visitors have the option to opt-out of any existing mask requirements. To request an opt-out, please inform the Clinic Manager at the respective Ackerman Cancer Center Location, and the clinical team will review the request in accordance with infection control procedures.
- B. Staff Members may choose to opt-out of any mask requirements if an alternative method of infection control or infectious disease prevention is available. To submit a request for opting out of mask requirements, please notify the Director of Human Resources & Corporate Compliance. The request will be reviewed by the Medical Director.
- C. Ackerman Cancer Center retains the authority to assess exclusions from the opt-out provisions to ensure compliance with relevant state and federal laws, rules, requirements, and regulations.

## **Communication**

If Ackerman Cancer Center mandates the use of masks at any of its Locations, Ackerman Cancer Center will communicate this requirement and ensure that the standards and procedures mentioned here are readily accessible to all individuals affected by the mandate.

*This policy/procedure is only intended to serve as a general guideline to assist staff in the delivery of patient care; it does not create standard(s) of care or standard(s) of practice. The final decision(s) as to patient management shall be based on the professional judgment of the health care provider(s) involved with the patient, taking into account the circumstances at that time.*