

CDC Issues Revised Guidance for Health Care Facilities

Update Includes Change to Masking Recommendations

In updated guidance dated September 23, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) no longer recommends universal source control (masking) and instead recommends that health care facilities, including dental offices, use community transition rates to determine when source control (face masks/respirators) is needed.

CDC recommends that patients and health care personnel (HCP) wear masks when community transmission rates are high. Health care facilities can opt not to require face masks when community transmission rates are considered substantial, moderate or low. Face masks are still recommended for patients or HCP who meet certain criteria outlined in the *Implement Source Control Measures* section of the guidelines, even when transmission rates are not high.

As a reminder, though CDC guidance is not enforceable as a regulation or ruling, the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry regulations consider a failure to follow CDC guidance unprofessional conduct, subject to disciplinary action.

Contact PDA's government relations team at (800) 223-0016 if you have any questions about the CDC's updated guidance for health care facilities.