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### **2023 Corona Virus/COVID 19/Illnesses of all sorts and a Safe DFX Brief Policy - Update March 2023**

Safety for all clients, families, and staff is our first priority. We follow the policies of the CDC, Colorado Department of Health and The Governor's Office for Colorado. These guidelines change frequently so we will utilize and maintain updated link information here:

[Colorado](#)

[CDC](#)

**As of March 1, 2023, UC Health has released the requirement of mask use for patient care. This is aligned with the Policies from the CDC and State of Colorado.**

Statement from UC Health:

Masks are no longer required for most people at UC Health hospitals and clinics now that fewer people are testing positive for COVID-19. "We consider it safe to lift mask mandates," said Dr. Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control for UC Health and one of the top infectious disease experts in Colorado. "While we should all be kind and considerate of others, it's wonderful to go back to normal."

Anyone who prefers to wear a mask is, of course, welcome to continue doing so. Immunocompromised people and those at high risk of getting severely ill with COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses may choose to keep wearing masks and avoiding crowded places.

In addition, people who are sick with respiratory symptoms, including coughing and sneezing, should stay home. If sick people need to come to a hospital or health care facility for medical care, they should wear a mask to prevent the spread of infection to others.

COVID-19 is now endemic and people will continue to contract the virus. But the change in masking policies at health care facilities should give people confidence that we can live with the virus and be prudent to maintain our health and the health of others by remaining home if there are symptoms or requesting masking when that fits your health situation.

The decision to lift mask mandates is based on data. Positivity rates for COVID-19 tests have been declining. During challenging periods of the pandemic, positivity rates for COVID-19 tests soared well over 25%, meaning that the virus was causing widespread illness. Now, positivity rates and hospitalizations have fallen, which is key, said Barron, who is also a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus.