



Department: Wellness

Issue Date: 8/1/23

**Policy: Infection Control: Use of Facial Covering – FL Specific**

Revised:

**Policy:**

Harbor Retirement Associates (HRA) will abide by the guidelines as set forth in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 408.824 Facial Covering Requirements for Health Care Practitioners and Health Care Providers and F.A.C. 59AER23-2 Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Coverings for Infection Control. The policy includes procedures for Residents, Staff and Visitors as well as procedures for opting out of facial coverings under certain conditions.

All FL HarborChase communities encourage Residents, Visitors and Staff to follow the policy for face coverings. However, state regulations allow residents, visitors and staff to opt-out of wearing face coverings. Residents are permitted to opt-out of wearing a facial covering as per the department of health regulation F.S. 381.026, the Patient Bill of Rights which includes consideration for:

- (1)The resident’s right to make decisions in an informed manner;
- (2)The resident’s right to have their individual dignity respected and the responsibility to respect the reasonable and responsible expectations of provider/community;
- (3)The resident’s right to file a complaint the appropriate agencies.

HarborChase\_\_\_\_\_ posts a complaints poster in the common area and is included in the residency contract/admission packet.

HarborChase\_\_\_\_\_ offers alternative to facial coverings which may include social distancing, outdoor visitation; transparent physical barriers or other alternative types of facial covering (i.e. face shield)

**Definition:**

"Facial covering" means a cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.



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**Compliance:**

The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring adherence to Infection Control standards and procedures. These procedures will be monitored by Director of Resident Care or Infection Control Designee. HRA shall post a copy of this policy on the website and post a copy of the policy in common area at HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ with resident rights information.

**PROCEDURE: Residents**

HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ shall require residents to wear a mask when the resident is in a common area and is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission. A common area is an area within the HarborChase community where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined. Residents must be permitted to opt-out of wearing facial coverings.

HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ will allow residents to opt-out of wearing a facial covering as per the Department of Health Regulation F.S. 381.026, The Patient Bill of Rights which includes consideration for:

- (1) the resident’s right to make decision in an informed manner,
- (2) the resident’s right to have their individual dignity respected, and their responsibility to respect the reasonable and responsible expectations of the provider or facility.
- (3) The resident’s right to file a complaint with the appropriate agencies.
- (4) HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ shall offer alternatives to facial coverings which may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.



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### **PROCEDURE: Visitors**

HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ may require visitors to wear to wear a facial covering when the visitor is:

- (1) exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission,
- (2) in a sterile area or an area where sterile procedures are being performed,
- (3) in an in-resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission, or
- (4) visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident’s safety.

Visitors must be permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.

- (5) HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ shall offer alternatives to facial coverings may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

### **PROCEDURE: Staff**

HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ may require Staff to wear to wear a facial covering when the staff is:

- (1) exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has been diagnosed with an infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission;
- (2) in a sterile area or an area where sterile procedures are being performed;
- (3) providing care in a resident or clinical room with a resident who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission; or
- (4) visiting a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident’s safety.

HarborChase \_\_\_\_\_ staff may opt-out of wearing a facial covering unless they are utilizing appropriate PPE per transmission precautionary measures:



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- (1) conducting sterile procedures;
- (2) working in a sterile area;
- (3) working with a resident who has been determined to have a compromised immune system increasing their risk of infection or whose practitioner has determined a mask is necessary for the resident's safety;
- (4) with a resident on droplet or airborne isolation; or
- (5) engaging in non-clinical potentially hazardous activities that require facial coverings to prevent physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards and procedures.