

**TO:** All Staff

**FROM:** Dr. Stonewall McCuiston, Vice President & CMO  
Kathy O'Grady, Vice President of Nursing & CNO

**DATE:** January 11, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Masking & Visitation Guidelines effective 1/15/2024-4/15/2024

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As of last week, Kankakee County is rated as high (red) level of transmission for respiratory viruses by the CDC. As a result, the CDC recommends masking in healthcare facilities to keep patients and staff safe.

**Effective Monday, January 15, 2024 universal masking is required in all Riverside Healthcare facilities when patients are present.** This includes nursing stations, patient care areas, receptions areas, etc. Masks are optional in non-patient facing areas such as the gift shop and cafeteria.

**Riverside Healthcare Current Visitor & Masking Guidelines:**

These guidelines are expected to be in effect until the end of the high respiratory season.

- Riverside follows CDC and IDPH guidelines. In the event that these guidelines differ, Riverside will follow the strictest current recommendation.
- In the hospital, 2 visitors will be allowed to visit a patient at a time. Visitors can alternate and will need to follow the masking guidelines.
- Children under 18 years old will not be allowed to visit at this time, exception to this will be in end of life situations and in the Family Birthing Center for sibling visits. Children will need to follow masking guidelines.
- Visitors who are experiencing respiratory symptoms are encouraged to visit after symptoms are resolved.

These guidelines will be in effect through April 15, when respiratory illness season is anticipated to end. Thank you for your dedication to keeping our patients safe.

Please send any questions to Kathy O'Grady at [kogrady@rhc.net](mailto:kogrady@rhc.net)