

Reintroduction of face coverings in high risk, urgent and emergency care settings

With the current levels of respiratory infections circulating in the community and the increased pressure and demand seen in urgent and emergency care, it has been agreed locally that enhanced IPC precautions will be implemented across Acute and Community Hospitals. This will include the reintroduction of face coverings for staff, patients, and visitors, to help reduce the impact of the heightened community transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

The clinical settings that will be implementing these measures with effect from the 11th of January 2024 include:

- Emergency Departments and Urgent Treatment Centres and other admission areas such as Oncology Assessment Units and Paediatric Assessment areas
- Admission wards: MEAU and SEAU at LCH, IAC and AMSS at PHB and EAU at GDH
- Haematology/Oncology wards – Waddington ward at LCH, Bostonian at PHB and chemotherapy units



What does this mean for my setting?

If you are required to attend one of the settings listed above, you may be asked to wear a face covering for the duration of your visit.

There are currently ***no changes to the guidance for Adult Social Care settings*** which include Care Homes, Community Supported Living, Day Centres and Domiciliary Care with regards to the wearing of face masks. The link to the COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for Adult Social Care can be found [HERE](#) which includes information relating to testing, outbreaks in Care Homes and PPE.

Risk assessments should continue to be undertaken during outbreak situations to determine the risk to patients, staff and visitors, and to support the implementation of appropriate precautions and IPC measures within your setting.

Please contact the Health Protection Team for further support and advice when completing this assessment by emailing the healthprotectionteam@lincolnshire.gov.uk or by calling 01522 552 993.