

Frequently Asked Questions from 11/6/20 COVID Town Hall

Q. Do non-patient facing staff in office settings need to wear Level 2 surgical masks?

A. Yes. In an effort to improve safety for all employees across the system, Level 2 masks are now required for all individuals in all Lifespan facilities. That includes office settings and non patient-facing staff.

Q. Where can we get Level 2 surgical masks?

A. For all employees, Level 2 surgical masks can be picked up at the following locations/times:

- Rhode Island Hospital: Monday and Friday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Nursing Office
- The Miriam Hospital: Monday and Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., outside Sopkin
- Newport Hospital: Monday and Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.. at Stores
- Bradley Hospital: Supply and Receiving, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

All other locations may have a representative pick up at the supply chain warehouse, 100 Willard Ave., Providence.

- This week only: **Wednesday** (11/11) and Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
- Ongoing: Monday and Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Q. As a regular shuttle bus rider, the recent changes advocate for open windows on the shuttle. How is this feasible for inclement weather?

A. It will be cold on the shuttles, so please wear a winter coat! Despite the cold weather, we will be limiting capacity and keeping windows open to improve ventilation—and safety—on the shuttles for everyone.

Q. Should we be taking temperatures of all who enter Lifespan facilities?

A. Since people with COVID infection can be asymptomatic—not running a fever, but still infectious—temperature checks can create a false sense of security. Our policy is that it is safer to require universal masking of all individuals entering Lifespan facilities.

Q. Is the Lifespan sick policy still in effect? If we contract COVID, would our 14-day quarantine absence count as separate occurrences or would there be leniency?

A. Although the Attendance and Tardiness policy remains in effect, individual circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic **will** be taken into consideration. Employees who must quarantine due to a verified COVID-related illness or exposure are eligible to apply for FMLA or

personal leave of absence, depending on the circumstances. If approved for a leave, they will not be subject to the Attendance policy.

Q. Where are we doing fit testing?

A. We are currently working on a system-wide, coordinated fit testing plan, involving a task force and teams at all affiliates. You will be receiving more information on fit testing in weeks to come.

Q. Will the new mobile app that requires you to attest that you are symptom-free before coming to work be required for non-Lifespan employees working in the hospital (i.e. Brown Physician Group and others)?

A. Ultimately, we would like everyone who works at a Lifespan facility to attest; for now, we will be phasing in the application for Lifespan employees first.