



CURRENT APPROACHES TO INCREASING COVID IN OUR COMMUNITIES & MASKS

September 15, 2023

As COVID-19 increases in our communities and there is no longer a public health emergency, different approaches to use of masks may be taken in different settings across western MA.

VMG patients, families, visitors may have questions as they see different approaches to COVID-19 (and flu). I am sharing with you what we understand is current practice at Baystate Health Hospitals and Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Baystate Health Hospitals and Cooley Dickinson Hospital

Requiring masks for health care staff/providers for those in direct patient care settings at all hospitals. Masks optional for patients, families, visitors.

Masks recommended for health care staff/providers who provide clinical care in at outpatient practices, not required.

Masks at VMG

Masking is always available at VMG and an important protection option you may choose to protect yourself at work. Masks are readily available at all health centers and may be worn by any staff member/provider. **At this time masks are not required** (exception those required by the quarantine and isolation guidelines for COVID-19 exposure/illness).

VMG will continue to monitor the CDC data for COVID-19 and consider best approaches for VMG.