


Policies and Procedures Assisted Living Communities		
Policy Title: Standards for the Appropriate Use of Facial Covering for Infection Control.		
Policy Number: A0000	Effective Date: 8/01/2023	

POLICY: STARLING shall 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.

DEFINITIONS: As used in this section, the term:

- (a) "Department" means the Department of Health.
- (b) "Facial covering" means a cloth or surgical face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.
- (c) "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as in s. 456.001.
- (d) "Health care provider" means a provider as defined in s. **408.803**; a service provider licensed or certified under s. 393.17, part III of chapter 401, or part IV of chapter 468; a provider with an active health care clinic exemption under s. 400.9935; an optical establishment permitted under s. 484.007; a massage establishment licensed under s. 480.043; a pharmacy as defined in s. 465.003; or an office registered under s. 458.328 or s. 459.0138.
- (e) "Office" means an office maintained for the practice of a health care practitioner's profession, as provided in his or her practice act.
- (f) "Staff" means employees of STARLING.

NOTE: F.S. 408.803 includes Assisted Living Facilities licensed in Florida.

PROCEDURE: STARLING shall post a copy of this policy on the website and post a copy of the policy in a common area.

PROCEDURE: STARLING 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 a health care facility where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined. Residents must be permitted to opt-out of wearing facial coverings.

PROCEDURE: STARLING must 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. STARLING posts a complaints poster in the common area and is included in the admission package.
- (4) STARLING shall offer alternatives to facial coverings may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

PROCEDURE: STARLING shall 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) STARLING shall offer alternatives to facial coverings may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

PROCEDURE: STARLING shall 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. Visitors must be permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.

PROCEDURE: STARLING Staff must be permitted to opt-out of wearing a facial covering unless they are:

- (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.

The Use of Facial Coverings

STARLING is required by Florida Statute 408.823 to post a policy for the use of facial coverings in the Community. The policy includes procedures for Residents, Staff and Visitors as well as procedures for opting out of facial coverings under certain conditions.

STARLING requires **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 a health care facility where residents are not treated, diagnosed, or examined. Residents must be permitted to opt-out of wearing facial coverings.

STARLING requires **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.

STARLING requires **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.
- Visitors must be permitted to opt out of wearing a facial covering.

STARLING encourages all residents, visitors and staff to follow the policies for facial coverings. However, state regulations allow Residents, Visitors and Staff to opt-out of wearing facial 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 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.

STARLING posts a complaints poster in the common area and is included in the admission package.

STARLING offers alternatives to facial coverings may include social distancing, outdoor visitation, transparent physical barriers, or other alternative types of facial covering.

STARLING allows Staff to opt-out of wearing a facial covering unless they are:

(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.