

South Shore Women's Health Care  
Masking Policy  
Effective 3/22/2023

POLICY

SSWHC is dedicated to protecting our patients and team members from exposure to communicable diseases while still providing some choice to the level of protection that is preferred from our customers, both internal and external. As long as COVID community levels for Berrien County are in the low status, masking will be optional within our facility, unless there are any known symptoms of infection. If COVID levels rise to medium or high risk, masking will be required.

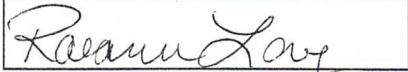
PROCEDURE

**LOW COMMUNITY LEVELS:** As long as there are no symptoms present and no known exposure, masks will be optional. They will, however, be provided for any person that chooses to wear them.

When making an appointment for a patient, schedulers should ask if the patient has any symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If these symptoms are present and the patient needs to be seen, a virtual visit may be offered. If the patient does need to be present in the office, they must stay masked at all times.

Patients that elect to wear masks may also be given the option to have their direct care team be masked as well. In those instances, the clerical staff should let the screener know after the patient checks in. Screeners will then communicate this to providers by placing a "MASK PREFERRED" sign on the door where the patient has been roomed.

**MEDIUM/HIGH COMMUNITY LEVELS:** Masks are required for all patients and staff.

  
Signature of Authorization