



May 1, 2023

Dear PANS Families –

With low levels of serious respiratory infections including COVID-19 and low COVID-19 transmission rates in our community, we are revising the PANS office masking policies. These policies may change again at times when rates of COVID-19, influenza, RSV, or other serious infections spike in our community. We will continue to screen patients for recent exposure to COVID-19 and for symptoms of illness -- we appreciate your understanding of our efforts to keep other patients and our staff healthy.

Who must wear a mask

Patients (and all accompanying family members) with current illness symptoms or recent close exposure to COVID-19 are **required** to wear masks while in the PANS office. These symptoms may include fever, congestion, cough, sore throat, eye discharge, vomiting, or diarrhea. In these circumstances, we will expect everyone over age 2 in your family to wear quality, well-fitting masks on arrival (cloth masks are not adequate). We ask that you be respectful to our staff if/when they remind you of this expectation. We will continue to provide masks if you do not have access to them.

Who may wear a mask

Anyone in our office may choose to continue to wear a mask because they are more comfortable doing so. This includes our staff. If your healthcare provider wears a mask, it does not mean they have an infectious illness. People with certain medical conditions, such as weak immune systems, may choose to continue to wear a mask. If you or your child has an underlying medical condition, your healthcare provider may advise you to continue wearing a mask. If you prefer members of our team wear a mask while in your exam room, you may request this.

PANS continues to support multiple measures to prevent COVID-19 and other infections among our patients and staff. These include continued care with rooming/cleaning procedures, vaccination, high-quality molecular testing for illness, and excluding employees with contagious illness from work.

We appreciate partnering with our PANS patients and families as we continue to promote health and help our community thrive.

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