

Infection Prevention Guidance for Persons with Acute Respiratory Virus Infection: In-Person Visitation to VUMC Ambulatory Clinics

Because of the risk that persons with an acute respiratory virus infection (e.g., influenza, COVID-19) pose to other patients and workforce members, we must be cautious with allowing acutely infected persons to come into our healthcare facilities. The following guidance will allow VUMC to provide safe patient care to all in the ambulatory healthcare setting:

PATIENTS WITH SYMPTOMS* SUGGESTIVE OF OR A CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS OF AN ACUTE RESPIRATORY VIRUS INFECTION:

- Preferred:
 - Telehealth appointment **OR**
 - Delay the in-person appointment until at least 5 days since symptom onset/positive test, if asymptomatic or symptoms are improving. In areas with a high concentration of immunocompromised patients, such as Transplant or Oncology Clinics, delay the in-person appointments until at least 10 days since symptom onset/positive test, if asymptomatic or symptoms are improving. For all patients, surgical/procedure mask should be worn in clinic if symptoms are still present.
- If patient needs to be seen in person and cannot delay the appointment, the patient can visit and should wear a surgical/procedural mask at all times. Clinicians and clinic staff should also wear PPE appropriate for the confirmed infection, if identified, or use the PPE for suspected COVID-19 infection if a specific infectious diagnosis is not known.

VISITORS WITH SYMPTOMS* SUGGESTIVE OF OR A CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS OF AN ACUTE RESPIRATORY VIRUS INFECTION:

- In order to prevent the spread of contagious respiratory viruses, such visitors **avoid visiting a VUMC clinic, if at all possible, until symptoms resolve or at least 10 days since symptoms onset.**
- If the visitor's presence is required in person, the visitor should wear a surgical/procedural mask at all times during the visit.

Although we do not screen asymptomatic persons, if inquired, asymptomatic persons with a close contact (such as a household contact) with COVID-19 infection in the past 10 days may visit a VUMC clinic BUT should wear a well-fitting surgical/procedural mask when at a VUMC facility.

***Symptoms/Conditions Suggestive of an Acute Respiratory Virus Infection:**

- New fever
- New cough
- Flu-like symptoms (muscle/body aches, chills)
- Loss of smell/taste
- A positive test for a respiratory virus (such as a home COVID-19 test)

VUMC workforce members should follow the VUMC institutional policy on working when ill and when to return to work.