



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19: Mask Order & Martha's Vineyard Hospital Valve Mask Prohibition

There are many things that can be done to protect yourself and others from becoming infected with COVID-19. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19. A face covering may help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to others.

In accordance with Governor Charles Baker's order, all Massachusetts residents are required to wear face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Gloves and a mask must be worn at all times if traveling in a vehicle with more than one person.

The Martha's Vineyard Hospital is prohibiting the use of masks with valves in the facility. The valve allows unfiltered exhaled air to escape the mask. These masks only protect the person wearing them and potentially expose everyone else to pathogens. For mutual protection in public, these are not beneficial. Instead, all patients and visitors entering the facility are provided one surgical or procedural mask immediately upon arrival and are required to wear the mask continually until they leave the building.

Reminders:

- A face covering can include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including dust masks, scarves and bandanas.
- Practice social distancing at all times by remaining 6 feet away from others when you leave your home for essential trips.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue, not your hands. Wash your hands immediately after.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (doorknobs, countertops, switches, etc.) with household cleaning wipes or spray.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/416687960>

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