

## SIPOA COVID UPDATE

Throughout the pandemic, SIPOA has implemented prudent and well-researched policies for our facilities. These policies are not static. They are adapted to respond to new data we receive.

SIPOA and many other businesses, employers, and communities participate in the MUSC Back2Business program. The program guides participants in their efforts to prevent/mitigate COVID in their respective businesses while offering a medical perspective on ways to make it safe for people to work and interact in other social settings.

In September 2021 due to a resurgence in positive COVID rates due to the Delta variant, SIPOA reinstated the earlier mask requirement in SIPOA facilities but made an exception for the fitness center provided 6' social distancing could be maintained.

SIPOA's primary focus is to maintain community health overall. At our request, MUSC recently performed another site evaluation to provide recommendations in light of recent upticks in the number of positive cases. The review included consideration of county and local data, plus how a mask requirement would affect our specific facility use, with particular attention to the fitness center and group activity/gathering settings. MUSC reiterated that regardless of vaccination status, face masking indoors in areas of high transmission is an important way to prevent the ongoing spread of infection.

Effective December 1, 2021, based on MUSC's recommendations and review of this protocol, SIPOA will modify the face mask requirements as follows:

- 1.** Face masks are required for individuals in indoor settings where people will be gathered for periods longer than 15 minutes AND where 6 feet or more of separation cannot be maintained. This includes the library and gathering rooms for events such as meetings, card games, massage, etc.

For social gatherings that include food/drink, individuals may remove their masks while actively eating or drinking (and maintaining social distancing).

- 2.** Individuals who are actively exercising inside the Lake House fitness area may remove masks while exercising. A 6' distance from other individuals should be maintained.

- 3.** For transient presence (e.g., less than 15 minutes) while traversing from one indoor space to another, face masks and physical distancing of 6 feet are recommended but not required.

**4.** SIPOA staff are required to wear masks in indoor settings when interacting with individuals where 6 feet distance cannot be maintained.

Please keep in mind that even vaccinated individuals, and those originally believed to be at low risk, continue to be in danger of getting the virus, and perhaps worse, of spreading it to others. If you are concerned about COVID exposure, please continue to wear face masks as your comfort level dictates, and/or move your activities and social interactions outside.

SIPOA is responding to COVID and the latest updates as quickly and thoroughly as possible. We will continue to maintain our association with the MUSC Back2Business program to maintain the safety of our property owners, guests, and employees. If in the future, we are advised that circumstances change and the COVID threat increases, we will review our policy and advise our Property Owners.

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Executive Director  
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