

An Important Update from the Infection Prevention Team

Client Educational Tool

Why BAYADA Employees Wear Masks and Eye Protection

August 7, 2020

You may be wondering why your BAYADA home health care professional is wearing a surgical mask and eye protection (eg, face shield or goggles) in your home. To keep our employees safe and provide your care with the highest professional, ethical, and safety standards, we are **requiring all BAYADA clinicians to wear a surgical mask and eye protection (goggles or face shield)** for each visit or shift. As we continue to learn more each day about the COVID-19 virus, these extra layers of precaution further protect you in the event that your clinician has been exposed to COVID-19, even if the clinician is not displaying any symptoms. And they provide additional protection to our clinicians who may see multiple clients a day, so they may continue to safely provide your care.



Here are some FAQs and answers to further explain the rationale for our clinicians wearing masks and eye protection.

If I am not sick, have not been knowingly exposed to COVID-19, and I keep my hands and household clean, why are my health care workers wearing masks and eye protection in my home?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to recommend wearing Personal Protective Equipment (such as surgical masks and face shields) to protect others when within a 6-foot distance. In addition:

- COVID-19 continues to spread in communities throughout the country.
- The primary way COVID-19 is transmitted is through respiratory droplets that can be transmitted when talking, laughing, singing, coughing, sneezing, nebulizing, or suctioning.
- CDC states COVID-19 can be transmitted 48 hours *prior* to when symptoms begin.
- We **now know more about how asymptomatic persons can transmit COVID-19 to others.**

I have already been tested COVID-19 positive and have fully recovered. Why are staff still wearing masks and face shields to care for me?

COVID-19 is still considered a new virus and there is a lot to learn about it. There is currently no evidence that suggests that everyone who has had COVID-19 is protected from being re-infected.

Health care workers wearing masks and face shields/goggles are frightening to me or my loved one. What advice do you have to reduce fears?

Coping with some of the changes as a result of COVID-19, such as wearing or seeing others wear masks or eye protection in both the health care setting and community, can be difficult. Understanding why your loved one is fearful is very important and can help with a solution to reduce those fears. Please talk with your clinician and your clinical manager about your loved one's fears so they can help work together on a plan to help reduce them.