



November 1, 2022

Dear Residents of The Mather,

We appreciate all that you are doing to keep Mather residents and employees safe as we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities. While we are still seeing cases of COVID-19, most people are not becoming seriously ill due to the high rates of primary vaccinations and boosters among employees and residents. This is good news!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance on COVID-19 precautions in late September and the Illinois Governor's Executive Order requiring masks in congregate living was retired on October 17. As we have done throughout the pandemic, when changes occur, Mather re-evaluates our internal COVID-19 infection prevention standards and policies.

Therefore, starting today, **masks will no longer be required for employees or residents who work or reside in Independent Living.** Individuals may choose to continue wearing masks based on personal preference. For example, if an individual or someone in their household is at increased risk for severe disease, they may consider wearing a mask to reduce their own exposure and infection risk.

At this time, **employees who work in or cross over into the health center (The Mather Life Centre) will continue to wear masks when in the health centers due to regulatory requirements.** Any employees who have had a religious or medical exemption granted from the vaccine and booster mandate that were required by Mather must also continue to wear masks when they are working at the community as they are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations.

We will continue to monitor any changes and we may need to periodically implement mask wearing on a temporary basis. Please continue to practice good handwashing, cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue, and stay home if you are not feeling well!

Please take care and stay well.

Sincerely,

Deann Daniel
Executive Director