HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All licensed Nursing Facilities in Louisiana
FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Joseph Kanter, M.D.
State Health Officer
RE: State Health Officer Order
DATE: July 26, 2021

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EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice from the State Health Officer.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:


The COVID-19 outbreak in Louisiana continues. Measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

The State Health Officer expressly finds that the measures ordered herein are necessary to help control and prevent further spread of COVID-19, a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease that represent a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by L.R.S. 40:1 et seq., particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2), I, Joseph Kanter, M.D., State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:
(1) All Nursing Facilities licensed in Louisiana are mandated and directed to reinstate universal masking, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in the nursing facility for all staff, residents and visitors. This is a temporary measure to protect the health and safety of all staff, residents and visitors due to the current surge of COVID-19 cases in Louisiana.

(a) Each nursing facility shall revise its current policy and procedure to reflect this new requirement.

(b) Residents DO NOT need to wear a mask when they are in their own room without visitors, while eating or if the resident has a medical condition that precludes masking.

(2) Any licensed-only (i.e., not certified for Medicare/Medicaid) nursing facility in Louisiana may impose stricter universal masking policies for all staff, residents and visitors than mandated in this Order if the facility chooses, provided that the facility has a policy and procedure in place to address such masking restrictions.

(3) This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices to licensed nursing facilities regarding masking of all staff, residents and visitors.

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on July 26, 2021.

Joseph Kanter, M.D.
Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
LDH Secretary