



The Center for Victims of Torture Clinic COVID-19 protocols

From a memo issued by Ruth Barret, Director of Global Operations.

Beginning July 1 all CSP staff will wear masks when clients are in the facility, regardless of vaccination status. Likewise, all clients and other visitors (drivers, volunteers, family members) will wear masks in CVT facilities, regardless of vaccination status.

Risk management has consulted internally and externally in order to determine clinic protocols for in-person work with clients. *Our understanding of CDC guidelines so far is that healthcare settings, where masks are still required for all, involve medical specialties and long-term care facilities that utilize touch interventions and/or provide meals. If the CDC or another relevant governing body issues additional clarification that addresses outpatient mental health and social service settings, CVT's guidelines could of course change accordingly. Meanwhile, unvaccinated CVT staff and clients will be masked and distance will be respected. Of course, at Roselawn and Bethesda we will need to wear masks just like everyone else. We will not require temperature checks at this time.*

WHO has also published a statement urging fully vaccinated people to continue to wear masks in all indoor settings as the highly contagious delta variant spreads.

Equally compelling was input from our contracted medical providers. All three suggested that CSP staff and clients all wear masks in the clinic buildings and offices.

With that input I reached out to medical network risk management and legal administrators. They confirmed that CVT does not have to require masks. But both advised that, especially with the delta variant circulating, we would be well advised to protect staff, clients and volunteers by mandating masks when clients are in the building.

I appreciate your patience with this change. I'm very grateful for the feedback from our doctors. Their feedback sparked additional consultation, which led us to a more comprehensive and accurate understanding of the current risk environment in CVT clinics. Thank you for speaking up.

To summarize, here are the masking protocols in CVT's St. Paul, Healing Hearts, St. Cloud and Atlanta clinic beginning July 1s:

- **When clients or other visitors are in the CVT clinic facilities, masks must be worn by all staff, clients, volunteers and visitors. Masks must be worn regardless of vaccination status.**
- **When no clients are in the clinic facilities, staff and volunteers who are vaccinated may choose to remove their masks.**
- **Unvaccinated staff and volunteers will wear masks at all time, regardless of whether or not clients are in the clinic.**
- Respectful distance and hand hygiene will be observed at all times.



National Capacity Building Project



Thanks again for your patience as we learn together how best to navigate this phase of the COVID pandemic. I look forward to hearing how these protocols are received in the coming weeks, and welcome any questions, news, ideas or recommendations that will help us mitigate risk from the COVID virus.

