



Family Choice  
OF NEW YORK



# **CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF ILI/COVID WORKING GROUP OF WESTERN NEW YORK: MASK USAGE November 12, 2020**

- **The working group recommends that individuals wear face masks to protect the people around them.**
- **All healthcare providers should wear masks at all times in all healthcare settings.**
- **All patients and visitors entering any medical facility or office should wear a mask, unless there is a strong medical contraindication, or they are less than 2 years old.**
- **The effectiveness of masks increases with the percentage of the population using them. To increase mask use, healthcare providers should NOT tell patients that masks are not important.**
- **All providers should actively educate their patients on the effectiveness of masks and strongly encourage their use.**
- **Individuals should wash their hands before putting on a mask. The mask should cover the nose, mouth, and chin, and should fit snugly to the side of the face.**

## References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 10). *Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 4). *Infection Control Guidance*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020, September 3). *How to Wear Masks*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

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*The ILI/COVID Working Group of Western New York was formed in response to local variation in approach to the diagnosis and treatment of Influenza-Like-Illness and COVID-19 in the region. It is a collaborative effort of hospital systems, academic departments, independent practice associations, and insurers. The logos and signatures on this document represent the organizations' support of this statement.*

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