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Memorandum

Date: March 28, 2022

To: Vendor Community

From: Nicolette N. Bateson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

CC: Sonya Collins, Procurement Director

RE: Coronavirus Update #159: GLWA Changing its Masking Practices for all Visitors Effective Monday, March 28; FAQ on the Masking Practice Change

Background: On March 11, 2021, GLWA released [Coronavirus Update #156](#) to the Vendor Community. In alignment with the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), GLWA outlined new COVID-19 quarantine and isolation requirements for Visitors to GLWA facilities and project worksites in the event of COVID-19 exposure or infection. Coronavirus Update #156 also provided a reminder of GLWA's current Visitor COVID-19 Access Requirements and Safety Protocols, which included mandatory masking.

New Information: Throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, GLWA has relied on expert medical advice from the CDC, as well as other public health agencies for guidance on forming its COVID-19 operating procedures and business practices. On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC issued updated guidance regarding preventative steps that may be taken depending on a county's COVID-19 Community Level.

The CDC's guidance uses three [Community Levels](#) and associated colors to indicate whether mask wearing should be mandatory or optional for a community, given their identified level.

- The highest Community Level is "red" with the recommendation that wearing a face mask should be mandatory to help prevent COVID-19 transmission.
- The next Community Level is "yellow," with mask wearing recommended but not required for high-risk individuals, including those who have not been vaccinated.
- The lowest Community Level is "green," with mask wearing as an optional precaution to help prevent COVID-19 transmission.

The CDC table is included below.

Community Levels		
Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

GLWA COVID-19 Masking Practices

During the COVID-19 pandemic, GLWA required face masks for all GLWA Visitors (including Badged Access Visitors, Non-Badged Access Visitors, and Delivery Drivers). At the earliest stages of this pandemic, face masks were required to be worn at all times at all GLWA facilities or project worksites. Last year, GLWA permitted team members to remove their masks when working outdoors in areas where appropriate social distancing was possible.

Update to GLWA Masking Practices as of 3/28/22

As recommended by the CDC and other public health agencies, and in alignment with requirements for GLWA Team Members, GLWA has updated its masking practices for all Visitors to GLWA facilities and project worksites as follows:

- Face masks WILL BE required for all GLWA Visitors (including Badged Access Visitors, Non-Badged Access Visitors, and Delivery Drivers) if any COVID-19 Community Level is “RED”** where a staffed, GLWA facility or project worksite is located or if there is a particular concern based on guidance from the CDC, the state of Michigan, local health department(s) within GLWA’s service area, or caseloads and activity within GLWA.
- Face masks will be required for all GLWA Visitors regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level if:**
 - A face mask is required PPE for the job or task the Visitor is performing;
 - The Visitor has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days and has subsequently been cleared to return to work;
 - The Visitor has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the past 10 days;
 - Face masks are required at a non-GLWA location where the Visitor is working; or
 - As otherwise determined by GLWA.
- Face Masks will NOT be required if the COVID-19 Community Level is either “YELLOW” or “GREEN”** where a staffed, GLWA facility or project worksite is located and GLWA has determined that there is not a particular

concern, based on guidance from the CDC, the state of Michigan, local health department(s) within GLWA's service area, or caseloads and activity within GLWA, that requires face masks be worn.

4. **Regardless of COVID-19 Community Level, all GLWA Visitors may continue to wear a face mask, if they so choose,** throughout the workday. GLWA visitors should keep a face mask available if necessary for their assigned duties or location.
5. **ALL GLWA Visitors are responsible for knowing whether face masks are required and adhering to GLWA's face masking practices.**

GLWA Current COVID-19 Community Level and Mask Requirement

As of Thursday, March 24, 2022, the CDC showed that the Community Level for all GLWA staffed facilities and project worksites is "**GREEN.**" Therefore, **beginning Monday, March 28, 2022, and until further notice, the wearing of masks at GLWA facilities and project worksites is optional.**

Should the status regarding masking change, a notice will be issued by email to all vendors registered on Bonfire. Signs will also be placed at each facility regarding the current masking status.

We appreciate the Vendor Community's cooperation with GLWA's Visitor COVID-19 Access Requirements and updated Safety Protocols as we strive to maintain the health and safety of the workplace. Any additional questions regarding these matters should be directed to [Michael Lasley](#) and [Megan Savage](#).

REVISED MASKING PRACTICES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Does this mean I am no longer required to wear a face mask at GLWA facilities or project worksites?

Yes, currently. See Section 2 of the memo, unless a face mask is specifically required for you or the GLWA job you are performing, wearing a face mask is not required at this time.

This answer could change in the future based on guidance from the CDC, the state of Michigan, local health department(s) within the GLWA service area, or caseloads and activity within GLWA that requires that face masks be worn.

2. Could GLWA require that I wear a face mask at GLWA facilities or project worksites in the future?

Yes. Although the infection rate has declined the COVID-19 pandemic continues and face masks could be again required for GLWA Visitors. In making that determination, GLWA will review guidance from the CDC, the state of Michigan, local health department(s) within the GLWA service area, or caseloads and activity within GLWA when determining if face masks must be worn.

3. What if I want to continue wearing a face mask, is that still permitted?

Yes. Even if wearing face masks is not required for GLWA Visitors, any Visitor who wishes to continue to wear a mask may do so.

4. When GLWA reviews COVID-19 Community Levels, what communities are considered?

The CDC sets COVID-19 Community Levels by county. When reviewing COVID-19 Community Levels, GLWA will look at those counties where its staffed facilities are located. Currently, GLWA looks to Wayne, St. Clair, and Lapeer Counties when reviewing COVID-19 Community Levels as a part of its determination on whether masks should be worn.

5. If I perform onsite services at a GLWA facility or project worksite where the COVID-19 Community Level is “Low”, do I have to wear a face mask just because another GLWA facility or project worksite is located in a county where the COVID-19 Community Level is “high”?

Yes. If a face mask is required at **any** GLWA location, a face mask will be required at **all** GLWA locations.

6. How frequently will GLWA’s face mask practice change?

The mask requirement will change as frequently and as often as is necessary to help protect the health and safety of the workplace. GLWA will review its face mask procedures at least once a week as information is updated by the CDC.

7. If GLWA reviews its face mask practice weekly, will Visitors receive weekly notice of those results?

No. GLWA Visitors will only be notified if there is a change to the face mask requirement for team members.

8. Will GLWA’s face mask practice always follow the CDC guidance?

While CDC guidance is a key data point for GLWA's practice, GLWA's face mask guidance could differ based on other factors it considers such as guidance from the state of Michigan, local health department(s) within the GLWA service area, or caseloads and activity within GLWA.

9. With GLWA changing its face mask practice, will social distancing still be required for Visitors?

Yes. GLWA Visitors will still be required to observe social distancing, when possible, regardless of whether face masks are required or optional.

10. With GLWA changing its face mask practice, will Visitors still be required to complete the [Visitor COVID-19 Questionnaire](#) when performing onsite services at a GLWA facility or project worksite?

Yes. GLWA's Visitor COVID-19 Access Requirements have not changed.

11. With GLWA changing its face mask practice will daily temperature checks still be required for Visitors at GLWA facilities or project worksites?

Daily temperature checks may still be required; however, automated temperature scanners may be used rather than the current scanning by healthcare and/or security professionals.

12. Will GLWA still provide wristbands to Visitors who successfully complete the daily temperature check and Visitor COVID-19 Questionnaire?

Yes. Wristbands will still be provided.

13. Does the updated face mask practice apply to GLWA Team Members?

Yes. GLWA Team Members who are on-site at a GLWA facility or project worksite will follow the same face mask practice as GLWA's Visitors.