Memorandum

Date: 5/4/2022

To: DOC Incarcerated Population

From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

Re: Face Coverings

Like the seemingly longer winter we’ve had this year, COVID continues to be a reality and it is apparent that COVID mitigation and prevention strategies are going to be part of our operational focus for some time to come.

At present, Minnesota communities and our agency locations are experiencing decreased infection levels. Currently, many correctional facilities are at Level 1/Green status, in the COVID Operational Guidance. In accordance with just released CDC guidance and the decreased level of COVID infection we reviewed our mitigation strategies and make adjustments.

Effective immediately, face coverings will be optional for staff and the incarcerated population in most areas and situations. Face coverings will still be required as outlined in the PPE matrix and in Health Care Units (Transitional Care Unit at MCF-OPH and Linden Unit at MCF-FRB,) all health services clinics and visiting. This change will be effective while locations remain at Level 1/Green status. If any location transitions to level 2/Yellow or level 3/Red, masking will resume as indicated in agency guidance.

Anyone who wishes to continue wearing a mask is welcome to do so.

Level Indicators

COVID-19 Operational Levels are raised or lowered after 24 hours of respective sustained increases or decreases in the following indicators. Use 10 day rolling calendar when determining case count.

Level 1

If No general population cases, intake cases 6 and under, and/or staff cases 6 and under

AND Facility vaccination rate ≥ (equal to or greater) to 65%

Level 2

If Limited number of population cases (known source, contained,) 1 unknown source, intake cases over 6, and/or staff cases over 6

OR Facility vaccination rate 50% to < (less than) 65%

Level 3

If Significant number of population cases (2 or more unknown and/or new source cases, 2 or more impacted units, start of a new surge) and/or staff cases over 10

OR Facility vaccination rate < (less than) to 50%

*It is possible for one facility to be in two levels (i.e., minimum unit versus inside secure parameter)