Safety Guidance for Internal and External Events and Gatherings at MercyOne Locations

Updated August 2, 2021

What’s Changed: Updated guidance to reflect latest CDC safety recommendations following rising cases of the Delta variant throughout the country.

Guidance
There are increasing numbers of cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant. In addition, it is now recognized that fully vaccinated persons may also transmit the Delta variant if they become infected. The vaccines are still highly protective against severe infection, hospitalizations, and death. Out of an abundance of caution, effective immediately and through September 30th, 2021, we are updating our guidance for internal and public events and gatherings held at MercyOne facilities to minimize risk of spreading the virus and keeping our colleagues, patients and communities safe.

- Internal and external in-person events should be limited to fewer than 25 people through Sept. 30, 2021 and limited to instances where remote participation is not possible. Note: Colleagues working in MercyOne System Office administrative buildings should refer to the additional communication on this topic.
- Medium and large indoor and outdoor community events are to be paused through Sept. 30, 2021. These events can be rescheduled as virtual-only events if possible.

We continue to closely monitor CDC guidance and positive cases in our communities and will update this guidance before mid-September.

Note that this guidance applies to both MercyOne locations where health care is delivered and other locations where care is not delivered. Health Ministries are responsible for following all local or state rules and regulations related to events and gatherings.

Due to the increasing cases and the new information that fully vaccinated persons who are infected with the Delta variant can unknowingly spread the virus, we are also requiring that masks be worn by both vaccinated and unvaccinated colleagues and physicians at all times unless alone in a personal office or when eating or drinking.