Supplemental Guidance for Healthcare Facilities

This supplemental guidance applies to healthcare facilities. Healthcare facilities are also encouraged to review current Healthy at Work Minimum Guidance. In addition, healthcare facilities are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with occupational safety and health regulations for healthcare.

For this document, a “healthcare facility” is any entity where medical, surgical, therapeutic, laboratory, diagnostic radiology or other healthcare services (i.e., “healthcare services”) are provided.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky relies upon licensed healthcare professionals within the state to utilize this guidance with appropriate professional judgment to minimize spread of COVID-19 and reduce risk to patients receiving healthcare services.

- Healthcare facilities should promote and provide COVID-19 vaccination for all healthcare personnel and encourage vaccination among patients and visitors, as appropriate. Healthcare facilities should maintain a record of the COVID-19 vaccination status of patients/residents and healthcare personnel.

- Healthcare facilities must require all persons at the facility to wear face coverings in areas where patient care and services are provided, consistent with their role (e.g., clinician, other staff, patient, visitor, etc.), and in alignment with current CDC guidance; this does not apply to back office areas where patients are not present.

- Healthcare facilities should adapt their visitation policies as necessary to balance patient care and support needs with the need to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission. In this context, steps taken to promote physical distancing, reduce congregating, and otherwise reduce the density of persons within their facilities may be beneficial.

- Healthcare facilities should exercise appropriate judgment and care with respect to the number of persons necessary in the context of the specific setting, services provided, and need to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Licensed clinicians should determine COVID-19 screening and/or testing requirements appropriate to specific healthcare settings, healthcare services, and individual patient circumstances to promote clinician and patient safety to the extent practicable.

- Healthcare facilities should maintain readily available access to a 14-day supply of all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) based upon a projected burn rate for the facility.