

May 14, 2021



CDC Mask Statement Does Not Apply To Healthcare Industry - Yet

In a direct email communication this morning with John G. Stebbins of Washington's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, (WISHA), we received the following response to our question about WISHA's position on the CDC's announcement that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks or follow social distancing protocols. The short answer is that nothing has changed at this time.



"The headlines are not catching the details. The CDC changes to their guidance are meant for **personal activities, not the workplace**, and they have not updated their guideline for dental settings at this point. The governor specifically did not apply his changes to healthcare settings. Over the next couple weeks we (WISHA) will be review our policies and begin making changes as appropriate. Healthcare settings have been seeing breakthrough cases of COVID-19 in vaccinated populations and so we want to take care in how we move forward in settings that have higher potential for exposures."

John G. Stebbins, CSP, CIH