

The Georgia Hospital Association encourages all Georgians to “Mask Up” with #MaskUpGA campaign

The Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) announced #MaskUpGA, a campaign to encourage all Georgians to make the choice to wear face coverings when in public settings and to social distance when possible to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 in our state.



The purpose of the campaign is to encourage organizations, businesses, and individuals to post on social media pictures or videos of themselves wearing masks and to accompany these posts with #MaskUpGA and a message about why they “mask up.”

“This campaign is about Georgians coming together for the greater good,” said GHA President and CEO Earl Rogers. “We, along

with Gov. Brian Kemp, urge everyone to make the choice to wear a mask as part of collective efforts to stop the spread of this virus. Together, we can help keep our state healthy and well.”

Research and data show that wearing face coverings helps reduce the spread of

COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing masks is “a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of disease, particularly when used universally within communities.” The CDC further states that wearing masks potentially slows the spread of the virus from one person to another.

As hospitals ensure their ability to treat all patients who come through their doors and prepare for potential surges, it is more important now than ever that Georgians remain healthy and do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Several organizations around the state have committed to joining

the campaign’s efforts.

About GHA

Founded in 1929, GHA serves more than 160 hospitals in Georgia and promotes the health and welfare of the public through the development of better hospital care for all Georgia’s citizens. The mission of GHA is to advance the health of individuals and communities by serving as the leading advocate for all Georgia hospitals and health care systems. GHA represents its members before the General Assembly and Congress, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies, and is an allied member of the American Hospital Association. For more information, please call 770-249-4500 or visit gha.org.

Threads of Love ladies sew masks for SCES teachers and staff

Seminole County Elementary School Assistant Principal Laura Croom requested First Presbyterian Church of Donalsonville’s Threads of Love to make masks for faculty and staff at the elementary school. 110 masks were made and handed out last week at the school.

This group began making masks at the beginning of the pandemic and after 600 masks, the sewing members stopped counting.

In addition to the masks, the group sews and ships dresses, shorts and T-shirts all over the world, creates blankets and pillows for the Department of Family and Children Services’ children taken into foster care, nursing home residents, and personal care home residents, to name a few. The ladies have also assisted the elementary school in making costumes for plays like Annie.

“Each member of the Seminole County Elementary faculty and staff appreciates the effort and the love put into making these makes. Thank you for helping to make our upcoming school days safer, and very stylish,” commented Croom.



Pictured above, with SCES Assistant Principal Laura Croom, unmasked, are Threads of Love members Ginny Bailey, Ellen Carter, Dottie Chandler, Gloria Fain and Becky Grantham. Not pictured are Martha Nell Spooner, Teri LaGrone, Donna Guterman and Sylvia James.

Department of Health offers return to work after COVID-19 Guidance

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has issued return to work guidance after COVID-19 illness or exposure for persons who are not healthcare personnel

In the case of healthcare personnel, readers are asked to review Department of Public Health Healthcare Worker Return to Work Guidance at <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/dph-return-work-guidance/download>

The following guidance should be used to make decisions about “return to work” for non healthcare persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, those who have suspected COVID-19 (e.g., developed symptoms of a respiratory infection [e.g., cough, shortness of breath, fever] but did not get tested for COVID-19 and have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or live in an area with local or widespread transmission, and for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 without appropriate personal protective equipment

last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Asymptomatic persons who are not healthcare personnel with confirmed COVID-19 who are not severely immunocompromised can return to work after at least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic

Asymptomatic persons who are severely immunocompromised can return to work after at least 20 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.

Note: asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons above.

Asymptomatic persons who are not healthcare personnel, and who do not work in critical infrastructure who have a known exposure to a person with COVID-19 without appropriate PPE can return to work after they have completed all requirements in the DPH guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>

Of note, if this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14-day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is monitored.

Asymptomatic persons who are not healthcare personnel, but who do work in critical infrastructure who have a known exposure to a person with COVID-19 can follow the CDC guidance for return to work at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementingsafety-practices.html>

Both CDC and DPH DO NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for returning to work (two negative tests)

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FPCB Establishes In This Together Fund For Hospital Employees

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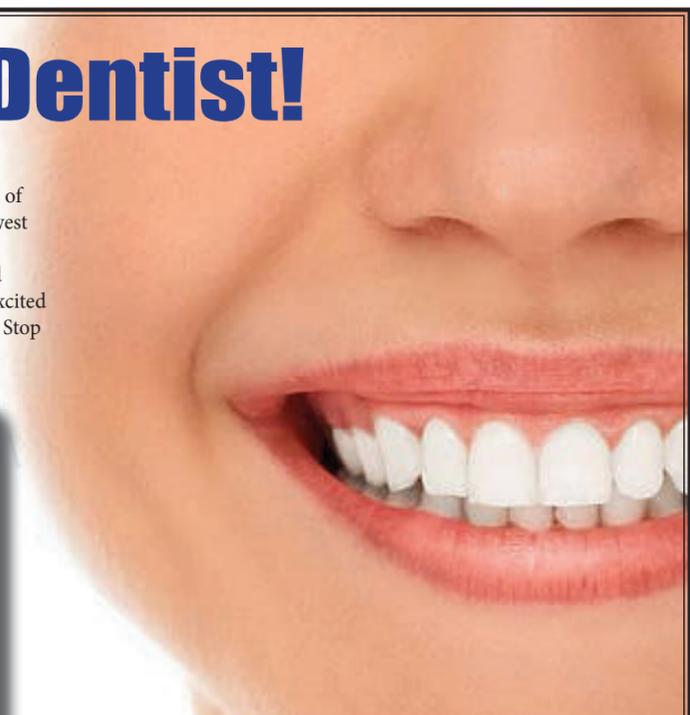


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