



## Message from the Executive Director

August 12, 2021

Dear ECUA Employees:

In consideration of the rising COVID-19 infection rate in our area and the increased spread of the more transmissible Delta variant, we must take reasonable precautions to prevent and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our workplace. Much like the increase we are experiencing in our community, the number of positive COVID-19 cases among ECUA employees has increased by 28 employees over the last month. For this reason, I am reinstating ECUA's mask mandate for employees, regardless of vaccination status.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance on July 27, 2021, and recommends that fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. The CDC reports that layered prevention strategies, such as wearing face coverings, are needed to reduce the transmission of the Delta variant.

In accordance with the most recent CDC recommendations, all ECUA employees must wear a face covering while:

- indoors at any ECUA facility when two or more people are within 6 feet of one another
- interacting face-to-face with other employees, customers, contractors, etc.
- traveling in an ECUA vehicle with two or more people
- working outdoors when persons are unable to maintain at least 6 feet of distancing

Employees are reminded to remain vigilant and follow the CDC's guidance on how to best protect themselves and others at work and at home, by:

- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine if eligible.
- Staying home if you are sick.
- Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth when out in public or around people who do not live inside your household.
- Practicing social distancing by avoiding large gatherings and maintaining distance of at least six feet from others when possible.

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Practicing routine cleaning and disinfection of high traffic areas and frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

In addition to the aforementioned guidance, ECUA employees should limit face-to-face interactions with others as much as possible at work. Please, only visit office locations and worksites if you have a legitimate business reason for doing so. If a phone call, email or video conferencing will suffice, please resort to using these methods of communication.

Please speak with your supervisor, manager, and/or director if you have questions, concerns, or difficulties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and your work situation. If you are not able to address or resolve your concerns within your department, please contact the HR Benefits division at 850-969-3368 and speak with a member of the human resources staff for assistance. Additionally, ECUA offers assistance to employees with in-person and telephonic counseling services through its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling 1-888-293-6948.

Remember, we are all in this together and must remain mindful of the steps we can take as individuals to minimize the risk of exposure for everyone.



J. Bruce Woody, P.E., MPA  
Executive Director