

COVID-19 FAQs
December 6, 2021

Q: With this new normal, are clinics still expected to label lobby chairs as unavailable in order to maintain physical distancing? We notice patients are choosing to sit away from each other anyway, and the taping and signs are not the most aesthetically pleasing, so we're hoping to be able to remove these soon.

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: In order to encourage six-foot physical distancing in the lobby, labeling chairs is still recommended. We are responsible for making sure that physical distancing is being maintained in the work and clinic spaces. Also, we have the ["Chair Social Distancing"](#) sign on Town Square for your use – if the current signs have some wear/tear, I would recommend replacing them.

Q: What is considered a prolonged period of time where shields would be required? At our site, we are required to attend IDT and CCM in person in a small room and shields are not worn. Are you able to please recommend and/or enforce that everyone wears shields or meetings are held via WebEx?

From the COVID-19 Response Team

A: Fifteen (15) minutes or longer is still considered the limit for close contact less than six feet. Face shields should be worn at all times in addition to masks when interacting with patients regardless of physical distancing. We would recommend that individuals maintain physical distancing of six feet during indoor meetings with all participants masked at all times. If this is not possible, then virtual meetings would be preferred. If staff members must be closer than six feet for greater than 15 minutes, we have advised to use face shields in addition to face masks to reduce risk.

Please alert your site leader of your concerns, and if you feel they are not being addressed, you may message your regional leaders. Your HR Business Partner can also be of assistance to you. We will discuss this with the regional leaders at our next meeting and will continue to reinforce this recommendation during huddles and COVID-19 Grand Rounds presentations.