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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Medical-grade masks now required at Tri-County Health Care

WADENA, Minn. – Jan. 10, 2022 – The Omicron variant has become the dominant strain of COVID-19. Its rapid spread and highly contagious nature make it a prime concern for healthcare organizations across the nation.

Several Minnesota healthcare systems have employed new techniques to slow the spread of Omicron while safeguarding staff and visitors. Starting Jan. 10, 2022, all patients and visitors will be required to wear a medical-grade mask while in Tri-County Health Care facilities. They will be available at all main entrances and in the ER.

A medical-grade mask is typically referred to as a surgical mask or procedure mask. They are made from paper and are manufactured with multiple pleats. This type of mask offers better protection against COVID-19 over cloth masks. If you enter a TCHC facility wearing a cloth mask, you will be asked to remove it and put on a medical-grade mask.

Vaccination continues to be the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19. For more information about COVID-19 and the vaccine, please visit [TCHC.org/covid19](https://www.tchc.org/covid19).

### **ABOUT TRI-COUNTY HEALTH CARE**

Tri-County Health Care is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Tri-County Health Care operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics and two physical therapy clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit [TCHC.org](https://www.tchc.org).

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