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National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Surveillance in Healthcare Facilities 2024-12238

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Comment from Anonymous

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General Comment

When fulfilling an appointment at a medical facility, whether it be a hospital or surgical facility (think colonoscopy, endoscopy, etc.), doctor's office, screening lab, et al., it is incomprehensible that a patient with a medical issue, whether it be minor or major, should be made to feel unsafe, insecure and treated contemptuously for wearing a face mask because neither the doctor, nurses nor the staff are willing to do the same in order to protect either the patient or themselves. These patients do not take wearing masks lightly - they are aware of the long-term risks of Covid-19 and ongoing sub-variants either because they have themselves had it (major or minor), know a loved one who has had it or succumbed to it and are highly aware of the past effects on both facilities, medical staff, including difficulties in scheduling surgeries and procedures, getting appointments, etc. as well as the strain on the health system as a whole.

The known effects of long-term Covid are many and varied and research is still ongoing. There is much that is still not known however we DO know that many ongoing, life-threatening physical side effects are possible such as clots, strokes and heart attacks to say nothing of damage to lungs, vital organs and the brain in all ages. It is also well-known that the virus has been able to continually adapt and it is also well-known that a large proportion of Covid carriers are asymptomatic. So it is unbelievably irresponsible that medical staff and facilities have decided to not only not protect their patients but don't protect their own staff! By not reporting cases of Covid within either their own facility or to their local or state health authority is complete madness.

We have been through a flu pandemic here in the past century and failed to learn lessons from it when dealing with world-wide Covid-19 less than a couple of years ago, followed by another massive flu outbreak here since. An avian flu outbreak is on the near horizon with little to no steps being taken to prepare for it as other viruses and poxes wait in the wings.

Are we really stupid enough to ignore the simple steps we have learnt so far in detection, protection and prevention once again? Covid is an ongoing battle and will be for the foreseeable future whether we like it or not. We CANNOT afford to ignore it by failing to disclose and report new or ongoing cases or by failing to monitor waste water levels et al. Money spent for ongoing detection, protection and prevention is vital not only to us as human beings but to our economic stability as well.

We cannot afford to be complacent or complicit.