HELPFUL PHRASES

"What COVID precautions would help you to feel most comfortable?"

"What COVID precautions would you like me to use when we meet together?"

"As part of planning for our work together, it is important for us to decide together on mask wearing, location, and social distancing."

"I am happy to wear a mask to ensure you feel comfortable."

"As we prepare to work together, it is important that I know your COVID-19 vaccination status. Can you tell me if you are fully vaccinated or not so we can decide how to safely work together?"

ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR VACCINATION STATUS

It is fine to answer that you are fully vaccinated (or not), if you feel comfortable answering

OR

"I don't feel comfortable sharing my health information, but it is HCRS policy that all non-vaccinated staff wear a mask when working with people in person. Please let me know what your comfort level is - we can meet outside, both wear masks, and/or continue with telemedicine. Please do let me or my manager know if these options don't work for you."

AVOID

"You don't want me to wear a mask, do you?"

"Don't worry, I am fully vaccinated so I don't need to wear a mask."

HELPFUL TIPS

- Try for mutual decision making and solution finding.
- Have the conversation before the first in person meeting.
- If the conversation can't be had before the meeting, prepare to wear a mask or face covering to the first appointment and then have the discussion (while masked).
- Remember, difficult conversations are part of our job and you are helping the people around you to practice advocating for their needs.