
COVID-19 PPE Masking Guidelines – 3.24.20 1517

All patient-facing team members will have the option of obtaining a standard isolation mask to wear for the day. Masks will be distributed on inpatient units to all team members by charge nurses. Ambulatory sites will have a point person for distribution. Use the following guidelines for masking:

- The mask should be worn continuously and only changed if saturated or contaminated.
- The mask can be used for multiple patient encounters.
- Do not touch the outside of your mask or pull your mask up and down over your chin.
- If your mask is removed, perform hand hygiene and place your mask in a safe storage area (example: paper bag, hooks, or paper box) labeled with your name, date, and shift time. (Multiple paper bags can be used throughout the day to ensure proper infection prevention.)
- Perform hand hygiene when re-donning mask.
- Masks with face visors should be wiped with hospital-approved disinfectant, and stored following these guidelines
- Discard mask at the end of your shift.

Other Mask Guidelines:

- **Symptomatic Patients:** All symptomatic patients should be given 1 mask and instructed to wear it for the duration of their visit.
- **Visitors:** Any asymptomatic visitor accompanying a symptomatic patient can be given a mask. If an *essential* visitor is symptomatic and needs to come onsite, also provide a mask.
- **Transport:** All patients who are in droplet, strict, airborne, or severe respiratory isolation must wear a mask when they are being transported outside their rooms. If the patient is unable to wear a mask, the transport team should wear a standard isolation mask during transport. If the patient has undergone an aerosol-generating procedure (intubation, nebulizer treatment, etc.), the team should wear a standard isolation mask during transport.
- **Reusable/ homemade mask guidance:** Currently, we are asking our team members not to wear homemade masks. We are working with our community partners to have as a possibility. Such masks cannot be the only mask worn in direct care of a Person Under Investigation (PUI) or known COVID-19 patient.