

COVID-19 Standard Isolation Mask Guidelines

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All team members in hospital and clinic settings wear masks while at work. Masks will be distributed at point of entrance. Masks are also available on inpatient units with 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, and date. (Multiple paper bags can be used throughout the day to ensure proper infection prevention.)
- Perform hand hygiene when re-donning mask.
- Masks with attached 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:

- **Eyeglasses fog prevention tips:** 1. Ensure top of the mask is tightly fitted against your nose and cheeks 2. Fold top ½ inch of the mask toward the inside to catch air, before donning mask, wash lenses with soapy water, shake off excess and air dry, 3. Use an anti-fog spray
- **Patients & visitors:** Patients and visitors to wear a Spectrum Health issued standard isolation mask and only replaced if saturated or contaminated. Mask worn when team member in room, or when patient is being transported. Replace when saturated or contaminated.
- **Non-medical masks:** Non-medical masks are approved for non-clinical settings (warehouse, business offices, Priority Health) See “PPE from home” document [here](#)
- **Masks from home:** PPE from home that meets or exceeds isolation guideline is acceptable (per PPE from Home document)
- **Wearing masks over masks:** We do not recommend wearing a standard isolation mask over an N-95 mask. This practice would decrease our supply of PPE necessary to care for our patients.
- **N-95 respirator masks:** During aerosolizing procedures of suspect and confirmed COVID-19 patients, N-95 masks are required. See all other uses of N-95 [detailed here](#).
- **Mask sensitivity:** View information about mask sensitivity and health tips for extended masking [here](#).