

Universal Masking: Procedural Masks and Cloth Masks

S	Situation	<p>For the health and safety for both our patients and our team members, we will be implementing universal masking for all team members, both clinical and non-clinical, entering any Central Maine Healthcare acute care facilities starting April 1.</p> <p>We believe “universal masking” is the best approach for source control designed to further reduce the risk of the community spread of COVID-19 and it will decrease the risk of transmission from/to those without symptoms.</p>
B	Background	<p>Masks provide protection from microorganisms and secretions which are transmitted in Droplet form. They typically fall within 6’ of someone who talks, coughs, etc. These droplets can fall onto surfaces and sometimes we can infect ourselves when we touch and transfer these droplets to our eyes, nose, or mouth.</p> <p>Procedural masks have been tested to provide protection to the HCP from droplet transmission as well as serve as a method of source control from the HCP.</p> <p>Cloth masks do not undergo testing, and although form a protective barrier to the nose and mouth, may not provide the same amount of protection. They are felt to be a method of source control for the wearer only.</p>
A	Assessment	<p>Masking supplies will be located at all open entrances.</p> <p>Procedural masks shall be provided to all direct patient care givers: defined as those HCW spending 5 minutes or more within 6’ of a patient.</p> <p>Cloth masks may be worn by HCW with a lower risk of transmission; those not involved in the provision of patient care or in their immediate environment.</p> <p>The mask you receive will be your mask for the day unless they become wet or soiled.</p>
R	Recommendation	<p>Masks need to be worn at all times within the facility.</p> <p>If they are to be removed for breaks or to eat, they should be placed in the provided paper bag, in order to keep them from being crushed or contaminated. Label your bag with your name and the date.</p> <p>Proper masking technique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure to perform hand hygiene before putting on your mask and after removal. • Make sure the mask covers both your nose and mouth, do not allow it to “dangle” from your face, ears, or any body part. • Avoid touching your mask and your face. • Maintain vigorous hand hygiene throughout your day/shift and if your mask is touched. • Follow instructions for proper extended use and reuse of masks. • Masks should not be used if they become wet, damaged, are difficult to breath while on, or become contaminated during the care of a patient. <p>At the end of the day, remove your mask and discard it into the trash upon leaving the facility.</p>