

Update 12-15-20: Universal Masking: Procedural Masks



S	<i>Situation</i>	<p>Since April 1 of this year, we have implemented universal masking for the health and safety for both our patients and all team members. Masking remains the best approach for source control and reducing the risk of droplet spread from COVID-19 for those with or without symptoms.</p> <p>Due to the high prevalence of COVID in our community, and the lack of standardization of cloth masks (fit, material components and thickness), it is recommended that all team members wear a procedural mask while performing their job functions in a CMH facility.</p>
B	<i>Background</i>	<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.</p> <p>Cloth masks are still recommended to control the spread of COVID for use outside of the healthcare environment and for patients and visitors.</p>
A	<i>Assessment</i>	<p>Masking supplies will be located at all open entrances.</p> <p>Procedural masks shall be provided to all team members.</p> <p>Cloth masks are recommended to walk into the buildings and screen, prior to hand sanitizing and switching out for a procedure mask.</p> <p>The mask you receive will be your mask for the day unless they become wet or soiled.</p>
R	<i>Recommendation</i>	<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. • Gently “mold” the wire around your nose, don’t pinch. • 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>