

Interim Protocol for Wearing Face Masks

(Reviewed 7/28/20)

All staff are expected to continue to wear procedural/surgical face masks, at all times. ***The exception to this would include those health care professional wearing N95 respirators while providing care for presumed COVID-19 (rule out) or known COVID-19 positive patients. Masks must cover the entire nose and mouth.***

The mask protocol will be continually monitored and re-evaluated as necessary.

Mask Distribution and Use in the Clinical Setting:

- Masks will be used throughout the shift. In the event that the mask becomes visibly soiled, saturated or damaged, a new mask must be obtained. Stock will be securely stored in each clinical setting.
- Should you need a replacement mask, you must request one from supervisory personnel in the clinical area you are working. We ask all personnel to make every effort to help preserve the supply of PPE and reduce the need for replacement masks whenever possible.
- Infection Prevention guidelines should be followed on the use, extended use and re use of procedure/surgical masks:
 - Extended use of facemasks is the practice of wearing the same facemask for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing the facemask between patient encounters.
 - Not all facemasks can be re-used.
 - Facemasks that fasten to the provider via ties may not be able to be undone without tearing and should be considered only for extended use, rather than re-use.
 - Facemasks with elastic ear hooks may be more suitable for re-use.
 - Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage.
 - The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container.
 - The facemask should be removed and discarded if soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through.
 - HCP must take care not to touch their facemask. If they touch or adjust their facemask they must immediately perform hand hygiene.

Mask Distribution and Use in the Non-Clinical Setting:

- We will provide ***one mask per day for each staff member***. The department designee at SJUMC may pick up masks for their non-clinical staff at the Security Department. Managers at SJWMC will make face masks available in their respective departments. At SJRH masks will be provided by a designee upon entry of staff into the building.
- In the event that the mask becomes visibly soiled, saturated or damaged, a new mask must be obtained from your department's designee.



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