

Direct Patient-Care Associates: Use of Barrier/ Surgical Masks

KEY RECOMMENDATION:

_____ (Name of Facility) is requiring healthcare workers wear a surgical mask while engaged in direct patient-care activities.

When should I discard the mask?

Any mask should be discarded when:

- You exit an isolation room
- Mask is visibly soiled, torn or damaged
- Mask becomes contaminated (e.g., mask is inadvertently touched with a soiled hand or glove, or if a patient sneezes directly onto it)
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Can I wear the same mask into multiple exam rooms or patient rooms?

- Yes, but only if patients are **NOT** under airborne or droplet precautions or demonstrating active respiratory symptoms such as a cough
- AND you do not remove the mask between patient interactions.
- **Once in place, you should avoid touching the mask with your hands.**



Appropriate for routine use of mask for non-isolated patients

- Direct care of the patient involving physically touching the patient
- Coming within six feet of the patient's **airway** for more than 1 min



Not needed for interaction with:

- Dropping off information
- Cleaning rooms when patient not present
- Common clinic or hospital areas (cafeteria, meeting rooms, nurse station)



Remain outside the patient's room, try to communicate remotely (phone) whenever possible:

- Pharmacy consults
- Admission interview
- Dietitians

***Isolation precautions take precedence over routine mask use.
Mask should be discarded after use in an isolation room.***

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to limited mask supply, the recommendation for routinely wearing masks is currently restricted to healthcare workers involved in **direct patient care activities**.

Direct Patient-Care Associates: Use of Barrier Masks

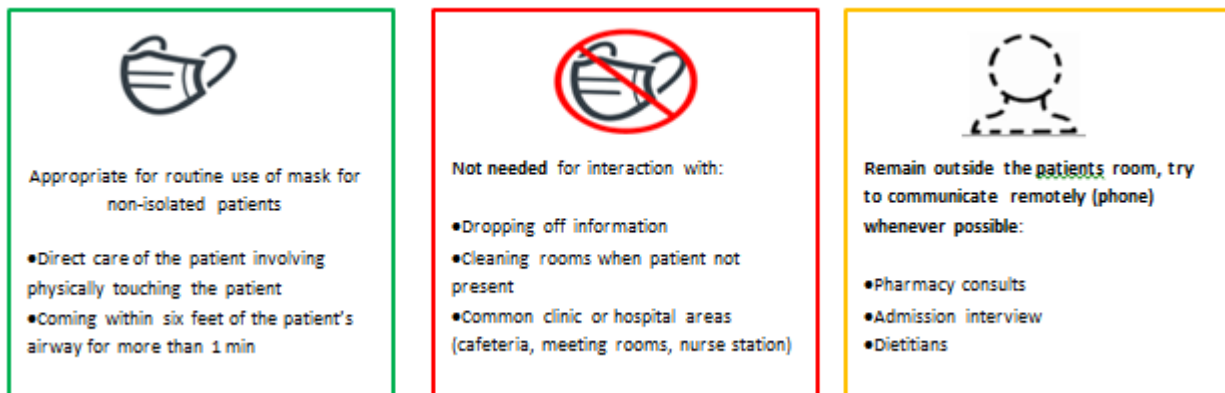
How to put on and take off a mask:

- Before putting on a mask, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
- Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin (if soiled); clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- A brown paper bag will be provided to each staff member to write their name on to hold their mask.

Non- Direct Patient-Care Associates Home-Made Masks and Physical Distancing

KEY RECCOMENDATION:

Employees **without** direct patient-care duties would have little to no benefit to routinely wearing a mask, but they are advised to keep physical distance of at least 6 feet from other employees and have the option of wearing a homemade mask.



How to Use Home-Made Masks

- Wear only in non-patient care areas; they should be clean and look professional (prefer a solid color or simple design)
- Perform hand hygiene before and after you put on and take off the mask
- Make sure it fits comfortable over your nose and mouth
- Do not touch it after it's on your face
- Carefully remove the mask touching only ear loops or ties in the back
- *Wash and dry your cloth masks using standard detergent and settings before re-wearing*
- Change it if the mask becomes damp or soiled

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