

Clarification of routine mask use for direct patient care activities to protect healthcare workers and conserve personal protective equipment (PPE)

1. Patients under isolation precautions:
 - Always follow instructions on isolation signs.
 - Any patients with respiratory symptoms, including suspected COVID-19 cases, will be placed under appropriate isolation.
2. Routine use of mask for entering the room of patients who are NOT under Isolation.

This narrow application for PPE use is intended only for frontline healthcare workers who provide direct patient care, as described [in Use of Barrier Masks](#). The same mask can be worn into multiple rooms but must be discarded after exiting an isolation room. Face shields can be worn into multiple rooms but must be disinfected when soiled or when exiting an isolation room.

Note for all categories shown: Hand hygiene is required upon entry and exit, regardless of whether the patient is under isolation, or PPE is worn.



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 one minute.



Not needed - mask not needed for interactions at:

- Reception (clinic or hospital)
- Delivering meal trays
- Dropping off information
- Cleaning rooms when patients are absent
- Speaking to the patient from doorway
- Common clinic or hospital areas (reception, hallways and meeting rooms)



Remain outside of the patient's room or contact the patient remotely (e.g., by phone) whenever possible.

- Pharmacy consults
- Admissions interview
- Care Coordination interview
- Dieticians
- Subspecialty consultation, as applicable*

*Limit staff providing direct patient care, (e.g., not all members of the rounding team need to enter the room).