

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Who, What, When, Where, and WHY?

(As related to current infection control efforts during COVID-19 pandemic)

### Who

- Patients presenting with symptoms waiting to be seen or have OP diagnostic tests
- Patients with symptoms being transported
- Staff/Physicians providing direct bedside care
- Staff transporting patients
- Support staff performing work tasks inside a patient room – directly or indirectly interacting with patient
- Staff stationed at access points with patient/visitor interaction
- Support staff performing work in any environment outside of patient room or in general public areas – areas where public distancing is possible or 4-6 feet can be reasonably maintained
- Staff/Physicians in areas with limited- or no-public/patient exposure.
- All staff in direct patient care area

### What/When

- Mask (with ear loops)
  - All staff ,at all times within reason- “universal staff masking”
  - Patient/Visitors waiting to be seen or have OP diagnostic tests performed (will be encouraged to wear their own cloth masks from home, will be provided a mask with ear loops upon arrival to facility if not wearing one) **\*\*cloth masks** are not to be worn by employees and are reserved for patient and family/visitors only\*\*
  - Staff/Physicians who are self-monitoring for symptoms post “possible exposure” and at the direction of Employee Wellness (Currently staff is masking universally)
  - Any standard/universal precaution need (i.e., performing patient care tasks where there is a potential for body fluid exposure)
  - Staff/Physician transporting patients (Currently staff is masking universally).
  - **Staff/Physicians** when directly caring for a patient in **Droplet: Condition Specific Isolation** (i.e., inside patient room or in close proximity) - discard prior to exiting room, do not extend use or reuse. (If caring for patients that are not in any type of isolation precaution, staff/physicians may continue to wear same mask, if remains untouched and until it becomes known or suspected contaminated).
  - Support staff performing work tasks inside a patient’s room under **Droplet: Condition Specific Isolation**, whether directly or indirectly interacting with patient- discard prior to exiting room, do not extend use or reuse. (If caring for patients that are not in any type of isolation precaution, staff/physicians may continue to wear same mask, if remains untouched and until it becomes known or suspected contaminated).
  - Double masking in any manner is not recommended
- Surgical Mask (with 4 ties)
  - **Suspected/Person Under Investigation (PUI)/Confirmed CoVID-19** during ambulation to room, or transport via stretcher
  - Patients under any airborne/droplet: condition specific, or droplet isolation that are being transported to another area for testing that cannot be performed at bedside.



- Support staff performing work tasks inside a patient's room when the patient is in any type isolation (directly or indirectly interacting with patient)
- Any standard/universal precaution need, such as performing patient care tasks or environmental cleaning tasks where there is a potential for body fluid exposure.
- Gloves
  - Staff/Physicians providing direct bedside care
  - Support staff performing work tasks inside a patient room (directly or indirectly interacting with patient).
  - Any standard/universal precaution need, such as performing patient care tasks or environmental cleaning task where there is a potential for body fluid exposure.
- Hand Hygiene
  - First line of defense. Our best personal protection is our intact skin.
  - Frequent and effective hand hygiene is all you need in **MOST** social- and work-related situations.
  - Spread love, humor, care, and compassion-not germs.

#### Where

- PPE is intended for use with the care processes directly related to patient care – with thoughtful consideration to potential exposure.
- Should not be worn for other purposes outside of the patient care environment, unless otherwise directed. (Such as donning stations outside of room- go directly into room for care process, do not linger in halls or at nursing station in any PPE except masking as required).

#### WHY?

- We owe it to our patients to provide a safe care environment that targets ZERO in all hospital-acquired infections. ZERO HARM: ZERO EXCUSES
- We owe it to ourselves and our families to do our work to the best of our abilities and in the safest manner possible to prevent or control any pathogen transmission.
- We have to be responsible in choosing the appropriate PPE and diligent in following the procedures that have been put into place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

For additional guidance, please refer to:

INFPREV\_PROC\_NOHS\_Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  
 INFPREV\_PROC\_NOMC\_NORH\_Isolation Precaution Definitions and PPE  
 INFPREV\_PROC\_NOMC\_NORH\_Transporting the Isolated Patient  
 INFPREV\_PROC\_NOHS\_Hand Hygiene