



Policy: Universal Face Covering (Masking) and Eye Protection for COVID-19

Change Notes: *(This describes notable changes in this latest version.)*

2/9/2021: Updated eye protection requirement.

5/25/2021: Added updated guidance for non-clinical facilities. Updated facial covering requirements for patients and visitors while alone in the patient room.

Purpose:

- A. To outline the requirements for when mask and eye protection must be worn for University of Utah Health employees, staff, students, and providers.
- B. To outline the expectations for when masks should be worn by patients and visitors.
- C. To describe how to obtain masks and eye protection

Definitions:

- A. Eye Protection: Goggles, face shields, safety glasses, or prescription eye wear with protective side shields. Note: Prescription eye wear is insufficient protection.
- B. Facial Covering: a well-secured paper or cloth mask that covers the nose, mouth, and stoma (if applicable). Facial coverings that are NOT approved include the following: those with exhalation vents, bandanas, neck gaiters, and mesh based masks (i.e. tulle masks) are not permitted.
- C. Fully Vaccinated: Greater than two weeks from Johnson & Johnson or from second dose of Pfizer/Moderna
- D. Non-clinical facilities: buildings where no patient care is delivered
- E. Procedural Mask: UU Health approved healthcare grade masks that offers a minimum of ANSI 2 protection.

Description:

- A. Procedural masks must be worn over the nose and mouth for employees, staff, students, and providers while in clinical and patient facing areas
 - 1. If an individual needs to remove their mask within the same room of others, as for a meal break, they must position themselves at least > 6 feet from others and limit the time they remain unmasked.
 - 2. Note: facial covering may be worn when entering and exiting the building while heading to or from their work area. Facial covering must remain in place until procedural mask has been donned.
- B. Eye protection must be worn for employees, staff, students, and providers while providing patient care.
 - 1. Note: eye protection is encouraged when either in the same room with, or within 6 feet of, other persons especially if those persons may not consistently be masked

- C. Facial coverings must be worn over the nose, mouth, and stoma (if applicable) for:
1. Employees, staff, students, and providers not in clinical or patient facing areas (unless already wearing a procedural mask) **either** in the same room with, **or** within 6 feet of, another person
 - a. If an individual needs to remove their mask within the same room of others, as for a meal break, they must position themselves at > 6 feet from others and limit the time they remain unmasked.
 - b. Exceptions:
 - i. Facial coverings are not required for fully vaccinated employees, staff, students, and providers in non-clinical facilities (see definitions) and in outdoor settings with no patient interaction.
 01. Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated employees, staff, students, and providers must continue to wear a facial covering and physically distance
 02. Use of facial coverings are recommended for healthcare personnel that care for immunocompromised patients
 2. Outpatients over the age of 2 years (unless unable to tolerate for medical reasons)
 - a. When entering, and while in, an ambulatory facility
 - i. Patients without their own approved facial covering will be provided a facial covering/mask
 3. Inpatients over the age of 2 years (unless unable to tolerate for medical reasons)
 - a. When entering the healthcare facility
 - i. Patients without their own approved facial covering will be provided a facial covering/mask
 - b. When healthcare workers are in their rooms or within 6 feet of them
 - i. Patients shall be instructed to don facial covering/mask when a caregiver enters their room.
 - ii. If needed, caregivers should assist the patient to don their facial covering/mask, unless the patient is unable to wear a facial covering/mask (i.e., receiving an aerosolized treatment).
 - c. When leaving their room for any reason.
 - i. If patient has a trach, a mask must be worn over the patients' mouth as well as their stoma if not connected to closed circuit when outside of their room.
 4. Visitors
 - a. When entering, and while in, a healthcare facility
 - i. visitors without their own approved facial covering will be provided a facial covering/mask
 - ii. visitors with respiratory complaints or who refuse to wear an approved facial covering should be denied entry
 - iii. patients that are not in respiratory isolation (droplet or airborne precautions) and their visitors may choose to not wear a mask in each other's company but they must must don a mask with healthcare worker presence.
- D. Extended Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
1. Procedural Masks:
 - a. Surgical areas:
 - i. Extended use of procedural masks is not approved for surgical services. Staff and providers should continue to follow the AORN recommendation of one mask per patient per caregiver.
 - b. COVID-19 Accepting Units:
 - i. Extended use of procedural masks is approved. Replace mask when:
 01. Mask is doffed for break or lunch
 02. Mask is doffed in order to don a N95 respiratory, PAPR, or CAPR
 03. Mask becomes wet and/or soiled
 - c. Other clinical areas:
 - i. Most staff will be issued one procedural mask per day. Masks should be replaced when mask becomes wet and/or soiled.
- E. Disciplinary Action:
1. University of Utah Health employees, staff, students, and providers who are not compliant with

- these requirements may be subject to removal from the work schedule, and/or discipline up to and including suspension of clinical privileges and/or termination.
2. Disciplinary action for non-compliance will be determined by the governing body appropriate to the Health Care Worker's position and job title.

Owner:

Alessia Banning

Liaison:

Jeanmarie Mayer

Approval Body:

Hospital Infection Control Committee
Infection Control Director
Hospital Human Resource

Organizational Area:

Clinical:Infection Prevention and Control

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This policy is considered out of date after Thu Aug 12 2021 which is 30 days from print date below.

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