

# UNIVERSAL MASKING CHART

Universal Masking Policy: In accordance with CDC and The Joint Commission Guidelines, all staff, patients, and visitors should be masked within our facilities\*. In addition, all health care workers should practice strict hand hygiene adherence and social distancing within our facility.

Staff Setting	Activity	Type of PPE
Inpatient, Emergency Department, and Ambulatory Sites		
Standard Precautions	<p>Any patient not on specific isolation</p> <p>Staff following the <a href="#">universal masking policy</a></p> <p>Admitted patients without symptoms of COVID-19 being routinely screened for COVID-19</p> <p>Screening or examination of Ambulatory patients without symptoms of COVID-19</p>	<p>Provided: Alternative mask</p> <p>Acceptable: Commercially purchased mask from home**, N95 respirator or procedural mask issued by hospital if already in use for that day in accordance with extended mask use guidance.</p> <p>Unacceptable: Cloth mask</p>
Isolation Precautions	Patient on isolation <u>other</u> than Enhanced Respiratory Precautions	<p>Provided: Hospital issued mask based on pathogen (e.g. procedural mask for droplet, N95 respirator for airborne), contact gown as indicated</p> <p>Acceptable: Provided mask as above</p> <p>Unacceptable: Alternative mask, cloth mask</p> <p><b>Practice PPE conservation guidelines</b></p>
New onset respiratory symptoms	New onset respiratory symptoms	<p>Provided: Procedural mask with eye protection***, contact gown, gloves</p> <p>Acceptable: Provided mask as above</p> <p>Unacceptable: Alternative mask, cloth mask</p> <p><b>Practice PPE conservation guidelines</b></p>
Respiratory Enhanced Precautions	Person Under Investigation (PUI) not currently in a cohorted patient care area (Respiratory Enhanced Precautions)	<p>Provided: Procedural mask with eye protection***, contact gown, gloves.</p> <p>Acceptable: Provided mask as above, N95 respirator should be worn if aerosol-generating procedures are being performed</p> <p>Unacceptable: Alternative mask allocated for universal masking policy, cloth mask</p> <p><b>Follow N-95 extended use/re-processing guidelines</b></p>
Procedural areas	Patients undergoing procedures	<p>Provided: Procedural or N95 mask provided dependent upon procedure type as reviewed by Infection Prevention</p> <p>Unacceptable: Alternative mask/cloth mask for those providing direct patient care</p>

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Staff Setting	Activity	Type of PPE
All COVID-19 Testing Sites		
	Collecting specimens	Procedural mask with eye protection, gown, gloves
Administrative Areas, Ambulatory, or Inpatient		
	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients	Provided: Alternative mask Preferred: Any mask from home (includes cloth or commercially purchased mask)
Patient or Visitor, any setting		
Standard precautions	Providing a mask to a patient decreases risk of exposure to the healthcare worker	Patients should arrive at our facilities with a clean face mask or face covering. If they do not arrive with a mask, one will be provided as long as supply allows. A cloth mask is acceptable for these purposes.
Respiratory enhanced precautions	COVID-19 positive patients	COVID-19 positive patients should receive procedural masks once a diagnosis is confirmed

\* Facemasks and cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

\*\* Universal masking includes use of a mask (either issued from UAB or a mask from home). These masks do not meet the definition of PPE for healthcare worker. Alternative masks will be issued for healthcare providers working in direct patient care areas as supplies allow. Cloth masks are not recommended for healthcare workers directly caring for patients. Extended use of facemasks is the practice of wearing the same facemask for repeated close contact encounters with several patients without removing the mask between patient encounters. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

\*\* As a measure to limit HCP exposure and conserve PPE, patients who meet definition of a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 should be placed in our COVID dedicated units within our facility. This allows dedicated health care providers to care for known or suspected COVID-19 patients. Dedicated means that health care providers are assigned to care only for these patients during their shift and can extend use of our N-95 respirators. If a patient who meets the definition of PUI cannot be moved from a primary service due to special needs of the patient, gown + gloves + droplet mask + face shield can be used safely to care for PUI based on CDC guidance, with N95 respirator used for aerosol generating procedures. Risk is minimized given procedural masks utilized by both patient and healthcare worker and short testing turnaround time. If testing is positive, COVID-19 positive patients will be transferred to COVID cohorting units as soon as feasible. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>