

Face Mask Guidance

The health system requires all staff, patients, and visitors to wear a barrier mask while in our facilities. A hospital issued mask (surgical, ear loop mask in patient care areas) must be worn by staff while in patient care areas. In non-patient care areas, it is acceptable to wear a cloth mask. Masks should not be placed on children two years of age or younger or anyone who cannot safely wear a mask.

Please follow these guidelines when in our facilities:

Patient care areas

- Healthcare workers who provide direct patient care must continue to follow our PPE recommendations.
- All staff who enter a patient care area (ambulatory clinic and inpatient unit) must wear a surgical, ear loop mask. Staff should not wear cloth face coverings in patient care areas.
- Patients and visitors are to be masked while in our facilities. They can wear a cloth mask in patient areas if the mask covers their mouth and nose.

Non-patient-care areas

- Staff in non-patient care areas can wear a cloth mask or a surgical ear-loop mask.
- The recommendation is that you wear the most protective mask you can, that provides good protection, fits well, and is comfortable. It should cover your nose and mouth without gaps. A mask or respirator will be less effective if it fits poorly, if you wear it improperly, or take it off frequently. The best mask is one that you can commit to wearing it consistently.

Tips for general use of facemasks

- Perform hand hygiene before and after you put it on and take it off.
- The mask should be fitted to the nose and should be extended under the chin. Both your nose and mouth should be covered.
- Do not wear your facemask under your chin.
- Do not touch the front of the mask.
- Carefully remove the mask touching only the ear loops or ties in the back

How to order masks: Departments that need masks may order them through Supply Chain using normal ordering processes.