



COVID-19 RESOURCE: Face Coverings and Respiratory Protection (Masks, N95s, PAPR/CAPRs)

Overview

NOTE: The use of respiratory protection does not replace the need for social distancing. While social distancing may not always be possible, we should make efforts to achieve it whenever we can.

Mandatory Universal Face Covering: Mandatory universal face covering is for all persons who enter the facility to help protect our staff and our patients from COVID-19 transmission. [Mandatory Universal Face Covering](#).

Face Coverings and Respiratory Protection during COVID-19

	Who/When to wear
Alternative Face Covering (cloth mask)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees upon entering and exiting the facility Non-direct patient care and non-patient facing employees who are able to maintain social distancing
PPE Face Mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct patient care and patient facing employees as their universal face mask Non-direct patient care and non-patient facing employees who are unable to maintain social distancing
N95, PAPR, CAPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees providing direct patient care to confirmed positive COVID-19 patients during their infectious period All employees performing an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) Guidance - COVID-19 on a COVID unknown/untested patient All employees providing direct patient care to Airborne Precautions patients Acute care, Post-acute care, and MHAS employees providing direct patient care to PUI COVID-19 patients



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Extended Use of Universal Face Covering

	<p>EXTENDED USE (a.k.a. uninterrupted use): Wearing the same respirator or PPE face covering for an extended period and for repeated close contact without removing it between patients.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Face Mask</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donning: Follow normal donning procedure for PPE face covering and any additional PPE. • Doffing: Doff all PPE (per protocol) EXCEPT PPE face covering and eye protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep PPE face covering on your face and avoid touching it ○ Remove eye protection and retain for disinfection or practice extended use ➤ Once a universal mask or N95 is removed (e.g. for break, lunch, or end of day) it should be replaced. Cloth alternative masks approved for use in non-patient care areas can continue to be used per policy. ➤ Universal masks or N95s not protected by a full-face shield, used for transmission-based precautions (i.e Contact, Enteric, Droplet, Airborne and Special Precautions isolation) or during procedures that involve blood, body fluids, and splashes (standard precautions), should be replaced.
<p style="text-align: center;">Respirator</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donning: Follow normal donning procedure and seal check • Doffing: Doff all PPE (per protocol) EXCEPT respirator and eye protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep respirator on your face and avoid touching it ○ Remove eye protection and retain for disinfection or practice extended use ○ Perform hand hygiene upon doffing ➤ Once a universal mask or N95 is removed (e.g. for break, lunch, or end of day) it should be replaced. Cloth alternative masks approved for use in non-patient care areas can continue to be used per policy. ➤ Universal masks or N95s not protected by a full-face shield, used for transmission-based precautions (i.e Contact, Enteric, Droplet, Airborne and Special Precautions isolation) or during procedures that involve blood, body fluids, and splashes (standard precautions), should be replaced.

Please exhibit every effort to NOT touch the front of your N95 respirator or face covering! If you MUST touch the front of your N95 respirator or face covering, hand hygiene is critical to perform before and after contact.



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PAPR/CAPR Cleaning and Disinfection

	When and How to Reuse	When to NOT Reuse
<p>PAPR</p> 	<p>PAPRs can be used in place of an N95 respirator.</p> <p>DISINFECTION AND REUSE PROCESS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform hand hygiene. Remove PAPR as part of doffing process. 2. Perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves. 3. Wipe PAPR hood with disinfectant. Start with the exterior. Ensure complete contact time. 4. Get a new wipe or cloth with disinfect for the interior of the hood. Ensure the contact time. 5. Get a new wipe or cloth with disinfectant and disinfect outer surfaces of the motor/blower assembly, belt, hose, and battery pack with disinfectant. Ensure complete contact time. 6. Store hood in clean location between uses. 	<p>PAPR hood can be reused following the reuse procedure until the integrity of the hood is no longer intact</p>
<p>CAPR</p> 	<p>CAPR Video</p> <p>CAPRs can be used in place of an N95 respirator.</p> <p>DISINFECTION AND REUSE PROCESS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform hand hygiene. Remove CAPR as part of doffing process 2. Perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves 3. Wipe CAPR shield with disinfectant. 4. Get a new wipe and disinfect all surfaces of the helmet, cord, and battery pack with disinfectant. Ensure complete contact time 5. Store shield in clean location between uses 	<p>CAPR shield can be reused following the reuse procedure until the integrity of the shield is no longer intact</p>



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Frequently Asked Questions

<p>What does mandatory universal face covering mean?</p>	<p>The use of face coverings by all staff to reduce risk of asymptomatic virus transmission. Mandatory universal face covering includes use of face coverings as “source control,” which prevents respiratory secretions produced by the wearer from contaminating other persons and surfaces.</p>
<p>Is universal face coverings mandatory?</p>	<p>Yes. Consistent with its Mission, Vision and Values, M Health Fairview is committed to providing excellent and safe patient care while ensuring the safety of our workforce, including preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities and in the community. As part of source control measures, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that healthcare facilities require everyone entering the facility to wear face coverings, regardless of symptoms. Mandatory Universal Face Covering Policy</p>
<p>How do I know if my PPE face masks fits me?</p>	<p>Facemasks are not meant to be fitted like an N95 respirator, so they will not form a seal. The mask should be worn over your nose and mouth and secure under your chin.</p>
<p>How do I know if the PPE face mask I was provided by supply chain is appropriate for use as PPE?</p>	<p>All employer-provided PPE facemasks have been approved for use by Employee Occupational Health Services, even though it may state on the box that it’s not intended for medical use.</p>
<p>What if I have an allergic reaction to my universal face covering?</p>	<p>Contact EOHS for alternative options.</p>
<p>When can I remove my universal face covering?</p>	<p>Employees alone in a cube with walls higher than face level, maintaining social distance, or in a room with a closed door can remove their face covering. The face covering must be readily available for person-to-person interactions or moving around the facility.</p> <p>The face covering can be removed during a meal with appropriate social distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In common spaces, make sure you maintain a social distance while eating your meal. • If moving around the facility with food or drink, keep your mask or face covering on until you arrive at a place you can safely social distance and consume your food. • When in patient- and non-patient-facing areas and drinking a beverage or eating a snack (as allowed), put your mask or face covering on between drinks or bites.
<p>Should I take my N95 respirator or face covering off when I go to the bathroom?</p>	<p>No, to minimize unnecessary removal of your N95 or face covering, please consider it part of your work attire.</p>

<p>Is keeping your face covering, PPE mask, or N95 respirator below your nose or chin okay?</p>	<p>No. The outside is considered contaminated. To avoid risk of contaminating yourself with the outer portion, please do not allow your face covering to hang around your neck, hang under your chin, or dangle from one ear. To avoid contamination, when removing from your face, perform hand hygiene before removing, store promptly in a labeled paper bag, and perform hand hygiene hand hygiene again.</p>
<p>Is a face covering required to be worn under a PAPR/CAPR for source control?</p>	<p>PAPR hoods and CAPR shields provide sufficient source control and staff do not need to wear face coverings in addition to a PAPR or CAPR. The PAPR hoods and CAPR shields direct air breathed out downward and dilute the exhausted air.</p> <p>If a non-shrouded PAPR is worn outside of the sterile field in the OR, then a PPE mask is required to be worn underneath.</p>
<p>Does mandatory universal face covering apply to patients?</p>	<p>Yes. Except for children <2 years old or those who cannot medically tolerate the face covering, universal face covering is for all HCWs, patients, and visitors.</p>