



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COVID-19 Universal Masking

COVID-19 N95 Respirator and Face Mask Conservation

<p>What does universal masking mean?</p>	<p>All staff and employees who work on or enter patient facing care units will be provided one face mask for their shift. The expectation is that staff and employees will wear this face mask for their shift. If the face mask needs to be removed they can follow the careful reuse steps.</p>
<p>Why is M Health Fairview implementing universal masking?</p>	<p>M Health Fairview has recommended moving towards universal masking to help protect our staff and our patients from community spread.</p>
<p>What does N95 respiratory and facemask conservation tactics mean?</p>	<p>To ensure we will continue to have enough N95 respirators and face masks to care for COVID-19 patients we need to conserve our personal protective equipment (PPE) as much as possible. M Health Fairview is implementing two tactics for N95 respirators and face masks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uninterrupted use 2. Careful reuse
<p>How does uninterrupted use work?</p>	<p>Uninterrupted use is the practice of wearing the same N95 respirator or face mask for an extended period and for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing the N95 respirator or face mask between patients.</p>
<p>How does careful reuse work?</p>	<p>Careful reuse involves removing the N95 respirator or face mask as needed, placing in a paper bag, and then donning again.</p>
<p>When would I practice careful reuse?</p>	<p>Examples of when you would practice careful reuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a break requiring access to nose or mouth • Moving between 2 patients, 1 requiring droplet precautions, and another requiring airborne precautions
<p>When is not okay to reuse?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the mask becomes visibly soiled, wet, or damaged • Becomes hard to breathe through • At the end of your shift (staff who work <8 hrs can reuse for multiple shifts)
<p>What if I am on a non-ICU unit and caring for 2 patients and one is on droplet precautions and the other is on airborne precautions (ex TB)?</p>	<p>Staff should use the face mask as their main mask for the shift. For the airborne precautions patient (ex TB), staff should dedicate a N95 respirator to that patient. Steps below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doff face mask and practice careful reuse 2. Don N95 respirator 3. On exit of room, practice careful reuse with N95 respirator

	<p>4. Don face mask <i>*If you prefer keep the N95 respirator as your universal mask that is acceptable</i></p>
<p>If I am on a non-ICU unit, but my patient on droplet precautions gets an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) what do I do with my face mask and N95 respirator?</p>	<p>Staff should use the face mask as their universal mask for the shift. For the airborne precautions patient (ex TB), staff should dedicate a N95 respirator to that patient. Steps below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doff face mask and practice careful reuse 2. Don N95 respirator 3. On exit room, practice careful reuse with N95 respirator (dedicate this N95 respirator to this patient in case of repeated AGP (ex nebs) during your shift) 4. Don face mask <p><i>*If you prefer to keep the N95 respirator as your universal mask that is acceptable</i></p>
<p>How do the conservation tactics work with isolation patients?</p>	<p>You would follow all normal donning/doffing procedures for that isolation, but keep your N95 respirator or face mask on.</p>
<p>What if I have to touch my N95 respirator or face mask?</p>	<p>You should exhibit every effort to not touch your N95 respirator or face mask! However, if you MUST touch your N95 respirator or face mask, hand hygiene must be performed before and after touching the mask.</p>
<p>Is universal masking mandatory?</p>	<p>No, it is not mandatory at this time, but it is highly recommended to practice universal masking to help protect our patients and staff.</p>
<p>Can I bring my own mask from home?</p>	<p>At this time, the direction to use M Health Fairview provided personal protective equipment (PPE). At this time, homemade masks are not considered PPE. We will utilize homemade masks for patients.</p>
<p>Should I take my N95 respirator or face mask off when I go to the bathroom?</p>	<p>No, this is not needed. The thought process is that you consider this as part of your work attire.</p>
<p>Is keeping your N95 respirator or face mask below your nose or chin okay?</p>	<p>No, this is not ideal because it risks contaminating yourself with the outer portion of the mask touching your mouth.</p>
<p>Is the integrated face mask with eye protection reusable?</p>	<p>No, the current recommendation is to use a face mask without eye shield for the universal mask. In addition, if this mask is utilized as a cover for your N95 respiratory it needs to be discarded.</p>

<p>Can I reuse my goggles and face shield?</p>	<p>Yes, goggles and face shields should be cleaned and reused until damaged.</p>
<p>What PDI wipes can be used for disinfection goggles and face shields?</p>	<p>Purple or gray top PDI wipes are acceptable. Bleach is not needed.</p>
<p>Where do providers, consultants, and learners get their face mask?</p>	<p>Learners, consultants, and providers can get their daily face mask from the local unit or clinic manager, charge nurse or supervisor.</p>
<p>Where do I get my face mask? Can we do a general system statement?</p>	<p>Staff can get their face mask from their local unit manager, charge nurse or supervisor.</p>
<p>Does universal masking apply to patients?</p>	<p>No, universal masking is for staff. Patients are provided a face mask only if indicated based on screening.</p>
<p>L & D: should staff wear their universal mask for deliveries?</p>	<p>L & D staff should not use universal mask for deliveries, they should store in a paper bag. They should use an integrated mask with eye shield and then discard after delivery. They can then reuse their universal face mask.</p>
<p>Storage of PPE: Where do you get the paper bags? Are the bags changed daily? Does it need to be paper bags or can it be plastic?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain can provide paper bags • Discard your bag when you discard your mask • Breathable paper bags are preferred for careful reuse of N95 respirators and face masks; plastic bags can be used for reusing goggles and face shields
<p>For screeners doing less than an 8 hour shift, should they discard or save for another day? If save, when should they discard?</p>	<p>Yes, this can be saved for multiple shifts. Discard the face mask when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the mask becomes visibly soiled, wet, or damaged • the mask becomes hard to breathe through
<p>We will update the FAQs as the situation progresses.</p>	