



Universal Masking Policy Updates:

These updates are in line with new recommendations and guidance from the CDC and the New York State Department of Health.

- Patients and visitors should, ideally, be wearing their mask or cloth face-covering upon arrival to the facility. They should be offered a facemask as supplies allow, which should be worn while they are in the facility (if tolerated).
- PPE masks (medical masks, surgical masks, ear-loop masks) should be prioritized for healthcare workers.
- Efforts should be made to preserve patient masks with appropriate storage for extended use.
- Patients in the emergency department should be masked (if tolerated) and should keep their mask for the duration of their stay to preserve PPE.
- Patients ambulating in common areas or being transported through common areas (if tolerated) should wear a mask.
- **Facemasks and cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.**