

Current PPE Guidelines for RRH Labs & Pathology (updated 8/14/21)

Applicable to all RRH Hospital Labs & Pathology and all ACM Medical Diagnostics Team Members

Dawn K Riedy, MD, Rochester Regional Health System Chair, Labs & Pathology

8/14/21 Updates Highlighted in Yellow

Standard Laboratory Safety Precautions (Not New)

- All current Standard Precautions in all areas must be strictly followed at all times, exactly as policies and procedures are currently written
 - See your supervisor if you have questions or need any PPE supplies

COVID-19 Pandemic: Enhanced Precautions

General Comments

- Protect Yourself (see RRH Employee Toolkit for more details)
 - Frequent hand sanitizing
 - No touching your face or mask
 - Social distancing whenever possible
- Standard Precautions Matter
 - Appropriate Engineering Controls are still (as always) your #1 protection, *not* your new mask or face shield
 - If you identify opportunities for additional barrier precautions (e.g. additional or larger splash guards) please notify your supervisor
 - Except as noted below, when engaged in specimen manipulation with a splash/spray risk Standard Precautions are sufficient
 - PPE guidance will likely evolve- ongoing collaborating with RRH Infection Prevention, CDC, NYS-DOH etc. to remain current
 - Each team member is responsible for reading and understanding all updated COVID-19 Toolkits guidance (announced in periodic COVID-19 Briefings)
 - If you do not understand something, ask your supervisor for help
- Environmental Cleaning
 - Lots of people working together in close spaces
 - Environmental Services is performing enhanced cleaning of laboratory spaces as a precautionary measure
 - Laboratory staff are (as always) responsible for cleaning all horizontal surfaces

Masking Requirements

- **Purpose: protect staff, patients and visitors, adhering to all masking requirements for healthcare setting**
- Updated Masking Requirements (reference 8/6/21 email to all staff from System Incident Command)
 - **All staff, regardless of vaccination status, must remain masked at all times in all RRH facilities (except while alone in a private office with a door- ideally closed- or while eating or drinking and remaining socially distanced)**
 - Masks must remain on even if no patients are present
 - There are **no exceptions** to this rule for any laboratory spaces or other non-patient facing areas
- Type of mask assigned
 - Surgical masks for most roles (if assigned a surgical mask, please wear a surgical mask- not something you bring from home)
 - N95 respirator only if part of existing standard precautions or specifically assigned (see tables below)
- When wearing a mask
 - If mask meets discard criteria (please refer to Toolkit), please contact your supervisor to obtain a replacement
 - Each team member is responsible for following all masking related instructions in the most recent version RRH COVID-19 Toolkit
 - Avoid taking your mask on and off as much as possible, and store mask properly when not being worn (see RRH Employee Toolkit)
- If you do not understand these masking requirements or instructions, ask your supervisor for help

Eye Protection (Face Shield or Goggles)

- **Purpose: protect patient-facing staff during episodes of care and protect staff from certain types of specimens**
- See eye protection requirements by role (updated in tables below)
 - As of 6/30/21 eye protection requirements depend on vaccination status; refer to RRH Universal Masking with Eye Protection Policy (found in RRH intranet Employee Toolkit) for more details
 - If your role does not exactly match one of the roles described below, please see your supervisor
 - Either an approved face shield or goggles provide adequate eye protection (regular eyeglasses are not sufficient)
 - Within 6 feet of all patients eye protection is required for unvaccinated staff and recommended for fully vaccinated staff
 - In the following situations eye protection is required for all staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) and a face shield is preferred to *protect your mask* (if only goggles are worn your mask must be discarded)
 - Entering room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation
 - Ambulatory patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting COVID exposure
 - During an aerosolizing procedure
- One individually assigned face shield- each employee is responsible for carefully storing their face shield when not in use
- **Respiratory Tract Specimens (Lab)**
 - Upper RT = surgical mask + face shield + specified biosafety cabinet
 - Lower RT = N95 respiratory mask + specified biosafety cabinet
- **Surgical Pathology Specimens (Pathology)**
- If you do not understand these instructions, ask your supervisor for help

Enhanced PPE Related to COVID-19 by Role

Patient Facing Staff

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
<p>Phlebotomist, Homedraw Staff (intermittently in patient care areas; no aerosolizing procedures)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask. Wear an N95 respirator mask for known or suspected COVID-19 patients; a surgical mask is sufficient for other patients</p> <p>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) Required at all times, in all locations during entire shift (only exception is while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or in a private office with a door- which should remain closed)</p>	<p><u>Vaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) is encouraged for all patient interactions and required in the following situations (face shield preferred to protect mask):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering the room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID <p><u>Unvaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) required for all patient interactions. Face shield preferred (to protect mask) if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID 	<p>Gown for known/suspected COVID+ patients or if otherwise indicated by isolation status (eg. nursing homes)</p> <p>Team member may choose to wear a gown for all patients</p>
<p>Phlebotomist, Patient Service Center (PSC) Staff (continuously in a patient care area; no aerosolizing procedures)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask. Wear an N95 respirator mask for known or suspected COVID-19 patients; a surgical mask is sufficient for other patients</p> <p>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) Required entire shift- even when no patients are present, includes processing & breakroom areas etc.(only exception is eating/drinking). Must also maintain social distancing while eating/drinking</p>	<p><u>Vaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) is encouraged for all patient interactions and required in the following situations (face shield preferred to protect mask):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering the room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID <p><u>Unvaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) required for all patient interactions. Face shield preferred (to protect mask) if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions <p>Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID</p>	<p>Gown if ≥ 1 screening questions answered in the affirmative (includes known COVID-19 patient); gown during COVID swab collection</p> <p>Team member may choose to wear a gown for all patients</p>

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
<p>Phlebotomist, Hospital Lab-Based, Unity & UMMC</p> <p>(intermittently in a patient care area; no aerosolizing procedures)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask. Wear an N95 respirator mask for known or suspected COVID-19 patients; a surgical mask is sufficient for other patients</p> <p>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception is when eating/drinking while socially distanced)</p>	<p><u>Vaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) is encouraged for all patient interactions and required in the following situations (face shield preferred to protect mask):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering the room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID <p><u>Unvaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) required for all patient interactions. Face shield preferred (to protect mask) if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions <p>Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID</p>	<p>Gown if indicated by isolation status</p> <p>Team member may choose to wear a gown for all patients</p>
<p>Laboratory, Cytology & Pathology Procedural Staff</p> <p>(Intermittently in a patient care area when performing or assisting with patient facing procedures, eg. Bone marrows, EBUS, FNA's, IR procedures, autopsies, 2-person ID of deceased patients with open body bag etc.; some aerosolizing procedures)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask. Wear an N95 respirator mask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enter the room of any suspected or confirmed COVID+ patient ▪ All patients regardless of COVID status when assisting with a high risk AGP- includes all autopsies ▪ COVID positive or suspected (or unknown status) when assisting with a low risk AGP <p>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated) Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception is when eating/drinking while socially distanced or alone in a private office with a door-which should be closed)</p>	<p><u>Vaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) is encouraged for all patient interactions and required in the following situations (face shield preferred to protect mask):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering the room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID ▪ During an aerosolizing procedure (includes bronchoscopies and all autopsies) <p><u>Unvaccinated Staff</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) required for all patient interactions. Face shield preferred (to protect mask) if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entering room of a patient on Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation precautions ▪ Ambulatory patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or reporting exposure to COVID ▪ During an aerosolizing procedure (includes bronchoscopies and all autopsies) 	<p>Gown/lab coat per existing protocols</p>

--	--	--	--

All Other Service Line Staff (if intermittently in patient-facing roles, see above)

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
Office based (<u>not</u> on hospital campuses)- examples include Elmgrove Billing, Rochester Tech Park, Riedman Client Services (no direct handling of specimens)	Surgical mask <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times, in all locations during entire shift (only exception is when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	None required	Recommend good hand hygiene, not gloves
Office based (on hospital campuses)- examples include RGH & Unity Pathology & Cytology Office Staff (no direct handling of specimens)	Surgical mask <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception is when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	None required	Recommend good hand hygiene, not gloves
Couriers, Materials Management Staff etc. Hospital "Runners" transporting specimens to Lab (no direct handling of specimens)	Surgical mask <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	None required	Recommend good hand hygiene, not gloves

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
<p>All Cytology Staff: Cyto Prep area</p> <p>Respiratory Tract Specimens</p> <p>Upper = surgical mask + eye protection + biosafety cabinet</p> <p>Lower = N95 respirator mask + biosafety cabinet</p> <p>(direct handling of specimens in Cyto Prep area)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask</p> <p>Use an N95 respirator mask when manipulating LOWER respiratory tract specimens</p> <p><u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u></p> <p>Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)</p>	<p><u>All Staff (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)</u></p> <p>Eye protection (goggles or face shield) for all upper respiratory tract specimens (BAL, wash, sputum etc.)</p>	<p>Use biosafety cabinet as per current protocols</p>
<p>Pathology- Specimen Management Staff</p> <p>(occasional direct handling of specimens)</p>	<p>Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask</p> <p>An N-95 respirator mask is used only if indicated by a current procedure (eg. fresh lung tissue)</p> <p><u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u></p> <p>Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)</p>	<p><u>All Staff (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)</u></p> <p>Eye protection (goggles or face shield) for all fresh specimens (eg. placentas)</p>	<p>Gloves only when handling open fresh specimen containers</p>

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
Lab Specimen Management Staff- Labs, Hospitals & Elmgrove (handling all specimen types)	Surgical mask <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	<u>All Staff (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) for all upper respiratory tract specimens (includes COVID and flu testing)	Standard Precautions
Laboratory Staff- all areas, all sites, including Elmgrove (includes Chem, Heme, Blood Bank, Micro) Respiratory tract specimens Upper = surgical mask + eye protection + biosafety cabinet Lower = N95 respirator mask + biosafety cabinet	Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask Use an N95 respirator mask when manipulating LOWER respiratory tract specimens <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	<u>All Staff (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) for all upper respiratory tract specimens (includes COVID and flu testing)	Use biosafety cabinet as per current protocols

Role	Mask REQUIRED	Eye Protection REQUIRED	Additional Standards
Pathologists Pathologist Assistants Histology Staff	Surgical mask or N95 respirator mask N95 respirator masks assigned to all pathologists and PA's and any Histology team members who participate in grossing specimens An N-95 respirator mask is used only if indicated by a current procedure (eg. fresh lung tissue) <u>All Staff (vaccinated and unvaccinated)</u> Required at all times in all locations during entire shift (only exception are while alone in vehicle or when eating/drinking while socially distanced- or alone in a private office with a door- which should be closed)	<u>All Staff (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)</u> Eye protection (goggles or face shield) is recommended for all fresh specimens in the Trim Room. Eye protection is required whenever there is a splash or spray risk.	Gloves per existing protocols

Dawn K. Rudy MD

RRH System Chair, Hospital Labs & Pathology
 RGH Chair, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
 RGH Laboratory Director
 August 14, 2021