

COVID-19

ROCHESTER
REGIONAL HEALTH

Universal Masking with Eye Protection Policy

To protect our patients, employees, visitors and to help minimize COVID-19 transmission, Rochester Regional Health has adopted a policy of Universal Masking with Eye Protection. **This policy is subject to change based on community prevalence and other relevant metrics.**

CLINICAL AREAS - Masking

- General: All team members must wear masks continuously in patient care areas, even when patients are not present, including, but are not limited to Office Suites, Nursing Stations, Operating Rooms, and Procedural Areas.
- Masks are also required while in hallways of clinical buildings.
 - When patients are not immediately present, the masks keep healthcare workers safe by minimizing the risk of transmission between each other.
 - Note that masks with exhalation valves do not provide source control and are not permitted unless the valve is covered with another approved mask.
 - Medical masks offer better protection than cloth masks, and are preferred for non-clinical settings. Medical grade masks are required in clinical settings.
- Area-specific:
 - **SURGERY**: Masks should be changed between surgical procedures regardless of eye protection.
 - **COVID Patient rooms**: Face shields are preferred for extended use and reuse of masks. If a face shield is **not worn during aerosol-generating procedures (on any patient) or when entering the room of a patient on any type of isolation precautions**, the mask would meet the discard criteria, as it may be contaminated, and a new mask should be obtained.
 - **Aerosol Generating Procedures**: Face shields are preferred for all aerosol-generating procedures. If a face shield is **not worn during aerosol-generating procedures (on any patient) or when entering the room of a patient on any type of isolation precautions**, the mask would meet the discard criteria, as it may be contaminated, and a new mask should be obtained.

CLINICAL AREAS – Eye Protection



Face Shields are the preferred eye protection, protecting eyes and mask (goggles are acceptable). Personal glasses are not considered eye protection.

Unvaccinated Staff

- In addition to the requirements listed for vaccinated staff, ***unvaccinated staff must wear eye protection for all patient interactions.***

Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Staff

- Eye protection must be worn when entering an Enhanced Isolation or Quarantine Isolation room.
- Eye protection (face shield or goggles; face shield preferred) is recommended for **all staff** performing aerosol generating procedures on any patient to prevent body fluid exposure to eyes.
 - If a face shield is **not worn during aerosol-generating procedures (on any patient) or when entering the room of a patient on any type of isolation precautions**, the mask would meet the discard criteria, as it may be contaminated, and a new mask should be obtained.
- In ambulatory settings, eye protection is required for patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, or have reported an exposure to COVID-19. If goggles are worn for eye protection, mask must be discarded after leaving patient.

NON-CLINICAL AREAS

- Meeting rooms in non-clinical areas of clinical buildings: Currently, all staff must mask in all areas of healthcare facilities, regardless of whether patients may be encountered. See Table 1 below.
- All non-clinical facilities: masks are not required at this time
- Contractor staff who enter the building are subject to the universal masking policy.
- **Meetings: Meetings may resume without social distancing as long as they occur in non-clinical environments.**
- See Table 1 below for more information



Table 1: Masking at the Workplace

Updated Masking at Healthcare Facilities	Updated Masking at Non-healthcare Facilities
<i>Hospitals, ambulatory practices, long-term care facilities, etc</i>	<i>Administrative campuses: Riedman, Monroe Avenue, Wegman's Center</i>
<p>Vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are required to mask in all areas of Healthcare Facilities, including conference/break rooms, even if they are in areas where patients are not encountered.</p>	<p>Unvaccinated individuals must mask and socially distance.</p> <p>Fully vaccinated individuals may unmask at all times regardless of location (example: hallways, offices, etc.)</p>

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PATIENT/VISITOR POLICY

- Patients and visitors should be wearing their mask or cloth face-covering upon arrival to the facility. They should be offered a facemask if they do not have one. Medical masks are encouraged to replace cloth masks.
 - When walking or moving through common areas in buildings and at the time of discharge, the mask policy applies to all patients.
 - Patients should wear masks when a healthcare worker or visitor enters the patient's room.
 - Patients in semi-private rooms should wear a mask until admission COVID19 test results for both patients are confirmed negative.
 - Instructions for patient masking:
 - Facemasks and cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2, or anyone unconscious, incapacitated, or *otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance*.
- Visitors must wear a mask or cloth face-covering at all times, including upon arrival, when leaving the facility, when walking through the building, and when visiting a patient.
- Visitors entering isolation rooms follow all PPE donning and doffing policies appropriate to isolation type.

Universal masking is one part of a comprehensive strategy to minimize transmission of COVID-19:

- Maintain social distancing
- Avoid touching face
- Perform hand hygiene :
 - Before and after patient contact
 - Before preparing food or eating
 - After using restroom
 - Before touching face
 - After removing facemask
- Use good respiratory hygiene: cover coughs with an elbow, use a tissue to cover sneeze, and clean hands
- Monitor symptoms daily and before reporting to work. Do not work if you have symptoms. Report symptoms through Employee Exposure Hotline and Enterprise Health links.



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