

## **UPDATE: Extended Use Facemask Maintenance Instructions**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ALL EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS WORKING AT MRHC AND MRHC AFFILIATED FACILITIES will be wearing facemasks (Cloth/Procedure) while in the facility regardless whether they are involved in patient care.

- You will be issued ONE procedure facemask per day (direct patient care employee) or ONE cloth mask (non-patient care employee) that must always be used while in the facility.
- Direct Patient Care employees will NOT wear a cloth mask until supply demand warrants crisis level of use
- Direct Patient Care Employees -Your facemask will not be changed between patients unless you enter a precaution room, once exiting the precaution room you will discard the mask and be issued a new one.
- Your single facemask must be maintained per the directions below.
- You may use a personal cloth reusable facemask if you are indirect patient care. The cloth facemask should be disinfected at home after each shift. (See instructions below)
- *If caring for a COVID-19 patient during an aerosolizing procedure (intubation, BIPAP, nebulizer treatments, nasopharyngeal swab, or suctioning), you must use an N95 mask and a face shield.*

### **CDC Guidelines on how to maintain your single issued mask:**

Extended use of facemasks is the practice of wearing the same facemask for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing the facemask between patient encounters.

- Non-patient care employees should put on and remove the cloth facemask outside the facility. While in the facility, it will always be worn.
- Ear loop mask should be removed by the loops, not from the front of the mask.
- Direct patient care employees will be issued a new mask each day.
- Do not touch your facemask. If you do touch or adjust your facemask you must immediately perform hand hygiene.
- If your facemask is soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through, contact your supervisor for a new facemask.
- When leave the facility at the end of your shift,
  - remove your facemask as mentioned above
  - fold the facemask with the outer portion of the facemask pointed out

## **Cleaning of Cloth mask**

- They should be cleaned in washer with bleach on hot temperature setting after each use
- Dry on normal setting or air dry to maintain longevity

## **For Patients:**

Patients will be given masks if they are experiencing respiratory symptoms, have traveled to areas with active COVID-19 infections, had contact with COVID-19 patients or has altered mental status or unconsciousness preventing them to be screened, a procedure facemask should be placed on the patient.

## **References:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

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