Policy: Universal Face Covering (Masking) and Eye Protection for COVID-19

Purpose:

A. To outline the requirements for when mask and eye protection must be worn for University of Utah Health employees, staff, students, and providers.  
B. To outline the expectations for when masks should be worn by patients and visitors.  
C. To describe how to obtain masks and eye protection

Definitions:

A. Eye Protection: Goggles, face shields, safety glasses, or prescription eye wear with protective side shields. Note: Prescription eye wear is insufficient protection.  
B. Procedural Mask: UU Health approved healthcare grade masks that offers a minimum of ANSI 2 protection.  
C. Facial Covering: a well-secured paper or cloth (bandana, scarf, cloth mask) that covers the nose and mouth.

Description:

A. Procedural masks must be worn over the nose and mouth for:  
1. Clinical employees, staff, students, and providers:  
   a. while interacting in-person with, in the same room with, or within 6 feet of patients  
   b. while within the same room with other employees, staff, students or providers  
      (including break and locker rooms). If mask must be removed, as for a meal break, individuals must position themselves at > 6 feet from others.  
   c. when in public areas of the hospitals and clinics  
4. Administrators and non-clinical staff who work in public areas or interact with clinical staff:  
   a. while interacting in-person with, in the same room with, or within 6 feet of patients  
   b. while within 6 feet of other healthcare workers providing clinical care  
   c. when on clinical care areas

B. Eye protection must be worn for:  
1. Clinical employees, staff, students, and providers:  
   a. while interacting in-person with, in the same room with, or within 6 feet of patients  
   b. while within 6 feet of other healthcare workers providing clinical care  
   c. while on clinical care areas  
4. Administrators and non-clinical staff who work in public areas or interact with clinical staff:
a. while interacting in-person with, in the same room with, or within 6 feet of patients
b. while within 6 feet of healthcare workers providing clinical care

B. Facial coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth for:

1. Administrators and non-clinical staff who work in offices or labs but not in patient care areas
   a. while within the same room with other employees, staff, students or providers (including break and locker rooms). If mask must be removed, as for a meal break, individuals must position themselves at > 6 feet from others.
   b. when in public areas of the facility

2. All employees, staff, students, and providers entering and exiting the building while heading to or from their work area. Facial covering must remain in place until procedural mask has been donned.

3. Outpatients over the age of 2 years (unless unable to tolerate for medical reasons)
   a. When entering, and while in, an ambulatory facility

4. Inpatients over the age of 2 years (unless unable to tolerate for medical reasons)
   a. When entering the healthcare facility
   b. When a caregiver or visitor is in their room, or within 6 feet of them

3. Visitors (visitors with respiratory complaints or who refuse to wear a facial covering should be denied entry)
   a. When entering, and while in, a healthcare facility

B. Extended Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Procedural Masks:
   a. Surgical areas:
      i. Extended use of procedural masks is not approved for surgical services. Staff and providers should continue to follow the AORN recommendation of one mask per patient per caregiver.
   b. COVID-19 Accepting Units:
      i. Extended use of procedural masks is approved. Replace mask when:
         01. Mask is doffed for break or lunch
         02. Mask is doffed in order to don a N95 respiratory, PAPR, or CAPR
         03. Mask becomes wet and/or soiled
     b. Other clinical areas:
        i. Most staff will be issued one procedural mask per day. Masks should be replaced when mask becomes wet and/or soiled.

B. Notes:

1. Patients and visitors without their own facial covering will be provided a facial covering/mask
2. Patients should be instructed to don facial covering/mask when caregivers enter their room.
3. If needed, caregivers should assist patients to don their facial covering/mask, unless the patient is unable to wear a facial covering/mask (i.e., receiving an aerosolized treatment).
4. University of Utah Health employees, staff, students, and providers who are not compliant with these requirements may be subject to removal from the work schedule, and/or discipline up to and including suspension of clinical privileges and/or termination.
5. Disciplinary action for non-compliance will be determined by the governing body appropriate to the Health Care Worker's position and job title.
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Approval Body:
Hospital Infection Control Committee
Infection Control Director
Hospital Human Resource

Organizational Area:
Clinical: Infection Prevention and Control

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