Health System News

Eye Protection and Masking

June 30, 2020 Tuesday

Please review the Mount Sinai Health System [policy on eye protection](#), which requires all health care workers with direct patient contact to wear face shields, safety glasses, or goggles. Public health authorities including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the use of eye protection in addition to universal masking for all direct patient contact. The addition of eye protection may further reduce the risk of unprotected exposures to COVID-19 from patients who are unable to reliably wear masks.

Although COVID-19 prevalence is decreasing, the possibility of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission remains. We do encourage all patients, including inpatients, to be offered surgical masks as tolerated. All patients will be asked to wear surgical masks for transfer or ambulating in hallways or shared spaces.

In addition, please take the opportunity to coach your colleagues to continue to promote social distancing in the workplace and common areas and to [wear their masks](#) appropriately covering their nose and mouth. We would like everyone, including our patients, to feel empowered to say, "I wear my mask for you; you wear your mask for me." If a patient or a visitor presents to the ambulatory setting without a face covering, please offer them a surgical mask to keep them and others protected and kindly state, "We have you covered."

Thank you for all you do every day to keep us and our patients safe.

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