



Staff Masking Policy

Updated: Monday, March 23, 2020

The Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS) is focused on protecting our frontline providers and staff, as well as ensuring the safety of our patients. To decrease exposure for both patients and staff, this document outlines the current policy on the use of facemasks and eye protection. As always, safety is our top priority.

Based on the current situation and recommendations, in both the inpatient and outpatient setting, when providing direct patient care we recommend a surgical mask should be worn. For providers and staff who have had a high risk exposure to COVID-19, surgical masks should be worn in patient care areas and all common areas, unless an N95 respirator is indicated. For specific masking protocols, please refer to the attached table. Of note, N-95 respirators should **not** be worn for the routine care of COVID-19 patients or *Persons Under Investigation* (PUI) or for collecting nasopharyngeal swabs and oropharyngeal swabs for testing for respiratory viruses including COVID-19 testing.

Staff should **not** take their used masks home.

This policy is subject to change based upon updated information from the CDC, NYS Department of Health, and other sources.



Staff Masking Policy
Appropriate Use of Face Masks

The Mount Sinai Health System policy on the wearing of face masks is as follows:

Setting	Activity	Type of Mask
Inpatient, including Emergency Department*		
Patient/Procedure Room	Any	Surgical mask
	Performing an aseptic procedure	Surgical mask (eye protection with face shield or goggles may be necessary if splashes can occur)
	Providing usual care** for People Under Investigation (PUI) or COVID-19 patients (Special Droplet precautions)	Surgical mask with eye protection (attached or separate face shield/ goggles)
	Performing aerosol-generating procedures for PUI or COVID-19 patients (e.g., tracheal intubation, non-invasive ventilation, tracheostomy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bronchoscopy)	N-95 respirator with eye protection (attached or separate face shield/goggles)
Laboratory	Working in Mycobacteriology Lab	N-95 respirator with eye protection (attached or separate face shield/goggles)
	Working in the AFB lab or working with respiratory samples	Surgical mask (with eye protection if risk of splash)
Administrative Areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients	No mask needed
Urgent Care	Any	Surgical mask
	Collecting specimens	Surgical mask with eye protection (attached or separate face shield/goggles)
All Testing Sites	Any	Surgical mask
	Collecting specimens	Surgical mask with eye protection (attached or separate face shield/goggles)
Ambulatory facilities, not covered by the above		
Triage	Screening of patients	Surgical mask
	Cleaning between patients	Surgical mask
Consultation Room	Examination of patients with <u>NO</u> respiratory symptoms	Surgical mask
	Examination of patients with respiratory symptoms	Surgical mask with eye protection (attached or separate face shield or goggles)
	Cleaning between patients	Surgical mask
Administrative Areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients	No mask needed

* Any staff member with a high risk exposure should wear a surgical mask in patient care areas and in any common areas

**Usual Care: includes direct care as well as cleaning of the patient room and delivering meals