
*Sent on behalf of Dr. Robert Lynch
Tulane Health System CEO*

Tulane
Health System



April 2, 2020

ATTENTION: All Colleagues & Providers

Updated Universal Masking Process

We recently implemented universal masking for all staff and providers in patient care areas to not only provide a safer environment, but to also continue to preserve our PPE supplies. At that time, masking for colleagues in non-patient care areas was optional.

However, as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and our PPE supply, effective immediately, all colleagues, regardless of whether they work in patient or non-patient care areas, are required to wear a mask. Your health and well-being is of the utmost importance and by applying this masking requirement, that exceeds the CDC guidelines, we are continuing to implement precautions to keep our workforce as safe and healthy as possible.

Process:

Upon arriving in your department and receiving patient assignments (for patient-care areas) for the day, the CNC/charge nurse or supervisor will pick up the necessary PPE for each staff member in Room 1114. At the end of the shift, the CNC/charge nurse or supervisor will bag and return the N95 masks, face shields and goggles to the same location for reprocessing and disinfection. Level 1 and Level 3 masks should be discarded at the end of each shift.

Mask Levels by Work Area:

<p>All Colleagues (except RT, Intubation, ER and staff caring for COVID patients)</p>	<p>Respiratory Therapy and Intubation Team</p>	<p>COVID or Suspect COVID, ED Staff</p>
<p>From PPE Czar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level 1 Mask <p>On Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves per usual care 	<p>From PPE Czar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N95 mask with goggles or any <u>faceshield</u> - Hospital Scrubs for RT - Isolation gowns <p>On Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves 	<p>From PPE Czar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N95 or Level 3 mask with goggles or any face shield - Hospital Scrubs - Isolation gowns <p>On Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves

Masking Guidance:

Masks should be replaced when wet, damp, torn, visibly soiled or hard to breathe through. When masks are removed for one of these reasons, discard in usual containers. Masks should remain on when using the restroom. However, for meal and water breaks utilize a disposable container to store the mask, with the outside surface of the mask facing down on the container. If at any time you touch the mask, immediately follow with hand hygiene. Do not discard masks between patients.

Masking Etiquette for All Users:

<p>Mask Etiquette</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO wear throughout shift • DO place mask in designated collection container when finished • DO change mask if becomes wet/damp/soiled • DO keep mask over both mouth and nose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO perform hand hygiene after any contact with front of mask • DO perform hand hygiene before any contact with patient • DO perform hand hygiene after any contact with environment • DO perform hand hygiene when moving between dirty and clean task

Gown Guidance:

Caregivers of isolation patients, including COVID or suspect COVID, will receive up to 15 isolation gowns per patient per shift. For additional gowns, please see your supervisor.

We are optimistic that having this comprehensive universal masking policy and practicing effective social distancing will mean we can protect our most valuable resources – each and every one of our colleagues – from viral spread so that we can continue to perform critical services for patients in need and serve the community.

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing commitment and perseverance as we navigate this healthcare crisis.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Robert Lynch
CEO
Tulane Health System

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