

All employees are required to wear a facility-provided mask or a privately-owned mask (POM) at all times while in any USA Health facility.

Failure to comply with universal masking protocol may result in progressive discipline up to and including termination.

STAFF AND PROVIDER SETTING	ACTIVITY	TYPE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
Standard precautions (any patient not on specific isolation)	Staff must follow the universal masking policy	Facility-issued procedural face mask, or POM (refer to POM algorithm on USA Health COVID-19 website)
Droplet or Airborne precautions (not a PUI or COVID+ patient)	Follow existing droplet or airborne precautions	Do not wear mask allocated for universal masking policy; Don appropriate mask based on pathogen (eg: procedural mask for droplet, N95 respirator for airborne), contact gown as needed; Practice PPE conservation
PUI or COVID-19 positive	Providing routine care to a Person Under Investigation (PUI) or any confirmed COVID-19 positive patient	Standard + droplet + contact precautions (procedural mask, eye shield, gown, gloves)
	Performing an aerosolizing procedure on a Person Under Investigation (PUI) or any confirmed COVID-19 positive patient	Airborne/Respirator + Contact + eye shield (PAPR, N95, eye shield, gown, gloves)
Ambulatory	Screening of patients, cleaning between patients, examining of patients with NO respiratory symptoms	Facility-issued procedural face mask or POM
	Examination of patients with respiratory symptoms	Facility-issued procedural face mask, eye protection, gown, gloves

PATIENTS AND VISITORS, ANY SETTING

Patients and visitors (non-suspected COVID-19 positive)	Providing a mask to a patient and visitor decreases risk of exposure to healthcare worker	Facility-issued procedural face mask or POM. Patients and visitors are required to wear masks at all times while in any USA Health facility. Some pediatric exclusions may apply depending on age of patient.
Patient and visitors (suspected COVID-19 positive)	Providing a mask to a patient and visitor decreases risk of exposure to healthcare worker	Facility-issued procedural face mask or POM. Patients and visitors are required to wear masks at all times while in any USA Health facility. Some pediatric exclusions may apply depending on age of patient.

Note: This universal masking policy applies to all contract employees, delivery persons, vendors, and all individuals authorized to be in a USA Health facility.

USA Health Universal Masking Policy

In light of the national PPE shortage, we are allowing expanded options to help protect our staff, patients and visitors. This is not a part of the specified PPE, but instead, more ways that you can protect yourselves and patients.

- When providing direct care for PUI or COVID-19 positive patient, please continue to follow the COVID-19 PPE guidelines.
- We will deploy our limited supply of handmade masks while supplies last. These masks are NOT for use in the care of COVID-19 positive patients, patients in isolation or PUI's. Employees participating in direct patient care may receive one procedural mask per day beginning April 3rd.
- Employees in non-patient care areas will use their mask seven (7) days or until soiled/damaged, whichever occurs first. Cloth masks should be washed and dried on the hottest setting daily.
- Procedural masks will be distributed by departments or clinics. not on an individual basis to employees. When departments or clinics deplete their supply, they should place a requisition for additional masks. If the quantity needed exceeds one box per day the manager should contact SPD to discuss their needs.
- Procedural masks for patients and visitors are provided at the point of entry into any USA Health facility and are replaced (if needed) every 7 days or if the mask becomes soiled.
- Patients and visitors are required to wear masks while in any USA Health facility – some pediatric exclusions may apply depending on age of patient.

As we move to these expanded options, we must emphasize the importance of consistent hand hygiene. It is also important to remove and save the masks in a way that prevents self contamination. You should avoid touching the front of the mask and wash your hands after you remove or handle it. An acceptable method is to store is to store your mask is in a paper bag.

Given what we have learned about COVID -19, the masking approach will serve to:

- Protect our patients, visitors and staff, should they come in contact with an individual who is either asymptomatic infection or has symptoms that have not been recognized. A mask achieves source control and decreases the risk of spreading infection.

In the event the supply of masks prohibits this strategy, distribution of masks will be prioritized based on the highest risk clinical activities. All efforts to conserve our supply are necessary to maintain supply until manufacturers are able to provide supply adequate to meet national demand.