



To: Erlanger Health System Personnel

From: Dr. James Sizemore, MD- Infection Prevention Medical Director and R. Grayson-Eubanks, DNP, RN, CIC- Infection Prevention Director

Date: April 15, 2021

Interim Guidance Memo: Universal Masking Update

The following guidance will begin today for universal masking throughout the Erlanger Health System. If you have any questions regarding this guidance you may contact the Infection Prevention Department at 778-7239.

Universal Masking for COVID-19

- A. Employees- In the healthcare facility, wearing a facemask can help protect from pre-symptomatic transmission of COVID-19 to patients, visitors and other HCWs. ALL individuals (staff, visitors, vendors, etc.) entering an Erlanger Health System facility are required to wear a facemask. In non-clinical areas such as the cafeteria, medical mall, elevators, etc., a cloth mask is permissible.
 - 1. All staff (includes contracted) working at EHS, will wear a surgical/procedural mask or N95 respirator:
 - a. At all times in clinical /patient care areas
 - b. In non-patient care areas when 6 feet social distancing is not feasible (shared office space, work requires close proximity, etc.)
 - 1. HCWs providing direct patient care to **confirmed or suspected** (PUI) COVID-19 patients are required to wear FULL hospital *approved* PPE including N-95 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face shield), gown and gloves.
 - a. Eye protection (face shield or goggles) and facemask (N-95 or surgical/procedure) must be worn while providing care to ALL patients to avoid potential exposure to COVID-19)
- B. Patients and Visitors- All patients and visitors should be instructed to wear a face mask during their visit at any facility within the Erlanger Health System. If they arrived without a face mask, one will be provided. Patients are required to wear a face mask, if tolerable.
 - a. Per CDC recommendations, face masks should not be placed on the following:
 - i. Young children under age 2
 - ii. Anyone who has trouble breathing
 - iii. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or other unable to remove the mask without assistance

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