

Masking Protocol during COVID-19 Pandemic

In efforts to protect our patients and healthcare team the CDC has provided recommendations to control sources of exposure. The following masking protocol and current PPE reuse procedure will be in place as PPE supplies allow:

1. **Employees** will wear masks as follows:

- a. Direct patient caregivers should wear a cloth mask coming into the building and remove the cloth mask and replace with the PPE defined for that patient case (cold or hot).
- b. Patient facing staff should wear a cloth mask coming into the building and remove the cloth mask and replace with a surgical mask.
- c. Employees whose job duties do not require PPE should wear their cloth face covering. Mask or cloth face covering may be removed when alone in an office for example; not in the presence of others. It is expected the employee wear a cloth face covering when entering and leaving the facility.

*** **Hand Hygiene** must be performed prior to and after changing any mask. Launder cloth face coverings daily.

2. **Patients and visitors** should, ideally, be wearing their own cloth face covering upon arrival to the facility. If not, they are to be offered a facemask or cloth face covering as supplies allow, which should be worn while they are in the facility (if tolerated). They should also be instructed that if they must touch or adjust their cloth face covering they should perform **hand hygiene** immediately before and after. Facemasks and cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Patients may remove their cloth face covering when in their rooms but should put them back on when leaving their room or when others (e.g., employees, visitors) enter the room. Screening for symptoms and appropriate triage, evaluation, and isolation of individuals who report symptoms should still occur.