

Mercy Health Services	Effective Date	March 30, 2020
Subject: Universal PPE Guidance	Supersedes	New
	Page	1 of 2

Purpose:

We are actively taking steps to protect patients, family, and staff member by reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while providing guidance to conserve our PPE supply.

Hospitals within the State of Maryland are experiencing an unprecedented surge of patients related to COVID-19. As a result, Mercy Health Services is operating under its Emergency Response Plan. Patient care and treatment decisions may necessarily be impacted as the availability of resources becomes affected.

Policy

- Staff within Mercy Health Services facility, regardless of role or location, should follow the guidance below for PPE
- Extent of PPE will be based on guidelines developed by Infection Prevention, in accordance with CDC guidance
- According to these guidelines, all staff will fall into one of three categories:
 - Low risk of exposure
 - Medium risk of exposure
 - High risk of exposure
- **Please note other isolation precautions should be maintained for other conditions as appropriate:**
 - A mask alone is not enough to protect you
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
 - Social distancing: keep a distance (about 6 feet or 2 meters) from others whenever possible
 - Cover your mouth and your nose with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze

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	Page	2 of 2

Mercy Universal PPE Guidance Table					
Level and Definition	Example of Roles Involved (not all-inclusive)	PPE requirements	How often should I change my face mask/respirator?	Handling and Conservations	What do I need to keep in my bag?
Low: No contact with patient care areas and not adjacent to patient care areas	Administrative Finance Human Resources	Surgical mask optional	One indefinitely, or until visibly soiled	Follow re-use mask policy	Surgical mask
Medium: Staff that has contact with patient care areas	Nurse Provider Respiratory/ Occupational/ Physical/Speech Therapists Environmental Services Greeters/Registration	Surgical mask with eye protection for close contact with any patient with fever or respiratory symptoms	One per week	Disinfect eye protection. Follow re-use mask policy	Surgical mask and Eye protection
High: Provide direct patient care or spend a prolonged time in room with PUI or COVID positive patients or during any aerosol generating procedure	Nurse Provider Anesthesia Provider OR/Perioperative personnel Respiratory Therapist	In room: Gown or suit, gloves, respirator with eye protection	Surgical mask: One per week Respirator: One per week	Before leaving patient room: discard gown and gloves	Respirator, Surgical mask, face shield
		Out of room: respirator or surgical mask with eye protection		Once outside of patient room: disinfect eye protection, continue with respirator or change to surgical mask	
		Off COVID/PUI unit: respirator or surgical mask			

These guidelines are all subject to change, due to national shortages during this pandemic.