MASK POLICY

Workplace masking policy for health-care providers, patients and visitors

island health

This document outlines Island Health and provincial expectations for the use of face masks in the workplace at Island Health. Masking, combined with the safety precautions of physical distancing, excellent hand hygiene, and staying home when unwell, will help to keep health-care workers and our patients, clients, residents and families safe from COVID-19. Questions? Please read our FAQs.

NOTE: please reserve N95 respirators for AGMPs and where N95s are part of the PPE required for airborne and or specific precautions.

ISLAND HEALTH STAFF, MEDICAL STAFF AND CONTRACTORS			
Environment	**Environment Example**	**Type of Mask**	**Used by**
Health-care facility or care environment	• ALL areas/settings where care, counsel and/or assessments are provided across the health authority. • ALL settings where staff and medical staff interact with patients, clients, residents, families and/or members of the public	• Medical-grade mask • N95 or an approved reusable respirator for AGMPs or where required for airborne or specific precautions.	• All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers • See also PPE Guidelines for Care Providers
Administrative areas _within_ a care facility	Examples: • Admin offices (i.e. CNE or leader) • Education or meeting rooms on a unit • Administrative wings (clinical and non-clinical) • Libraries • Supportive services • FMO/support areas	• Medical-grade mask	• All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers
Administrative areas _not_ located in a care facility	• Corporate services where care is not provided • Examples: Begbie Hall, Aulds Road, etc.	• Non-medical, 3-layer cloth masks can be worn when 2-metres distance cannot be maintained • Medical-grade masks must be worn when visiting or transitioning through a care facility	• All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers

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Environment	**Environment Example**	**Type of Mask**	**Used by**
Common areas	Areas where staff, medical staff, patients, clients, residents, families and/or members of the public are present, e.g.: • hospital atrium • hallways • coffee shops • elevators • washrooms	• Medical-grade masks • Medical-grade mask can be removed for eating or drinking, while maintaining 2-metres distance	• All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers
VISITORS			
Environment	**Environment Example**	**Type of Mask**	**Used by**
Health-care facility or care environment	• When entering and moving around **any** health care facility, including clinical and non-clinical areas	• Medical-grade masks	• All visitors
LTC / AL facility	• All areas	• Medical-grade masks	• All visitors

RESOURCES:

- Ministry of Health – Mask Use Policy in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Masks Required Poster *(see ordering instructions on page 4)*
- BCCDC – Face Masks: How are they different
- World Health Organization – Poster: How to Wear a Medical Mask Safely
- Health Canada – Appropriate Use of Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering
- Health Canada – Poster: How to Safely Use a Non-Medical Mask