

Mask Distribution to Patients, Caregivers and Visitors

- All patients, caregivers and visitors are required to wear a mask while in MultiCare facilities, if able to tolerate, patients should wear a mask when staff are caring for them. Unless they have certain qualifying health conditions. **
- For the safety of our staff and patients in **non-hospital-based clinics**, if someone refuses to wear a mask for reasons unrelated to a health condition, they may be asked to leave the clinic and assisted in scheduling a virtual visit instead.
- Symptomatic patients will be provided with a medical-grade mask to replace a cloth face covering if they are using one
- All patients, caregivers and visitors will undergo screening protocols at all facilities. They will be provided with a mask if they arrive without one.
- Patients and caregivers/parents are required to wear a mask until they are instructed by their care teams to remove the mask for treatment.

**Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitate or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. (From the Order of the Secretary of Health on face coverings – 6.24.2020)

Definitions:

- **Caregiver:** an individual who is defined as someone deemed by the care teams to be necessary for optimal care of a patient
 - Example: a mother bringing a two-year-old child into a clinic or ED
- **Patient:** individual receiving care
- **Visitor:** an individual coming into a facility to visit a patient who is already admitted or being seen
- **Clinical Facility:** a place where patient care is provided (a hospital, off-campus ED, urgent care, ambulatory clinic (MMA or RWC))

Donated Cloth/Blue Wrap Mask Collection, Cleaning and Distribution

- We have received donations of homemade cloth and blue wrap masks from the community.
- The current goal is to use these masks for visitors, caregivers and patients to preserve manufactured procedure masks for staff.
- **Donation and Collection:**
 - We are requesting that community members donate masks as follows:

- PSR - to the loading docks at Tacoma General, Good Samaritan, Auburn Medical Center and Covington Medical Center between 11am - 2pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
 - INW – at the main entrances for Deaconess Hospital and Valley Hospital, between 11am -2pm, M-F.
 - Volunteer Services will coordinate collection of masks and other goods.
- **Mask cleaning and ordering**
- Donated cloth and blue wrap masks will be quarantined for seven (7) days prior to distribution.
 - Contact your Supply Chain representative through the standard process for mask supplies.

FAQs:

1. Who should get a procedure mask rather than a cloth or blue wrap mask?

Symptomatic patients will be provided a procedure mask, not a cloth or blue wrap mask.

Asymptomatic patients, visitors and caregivers should be provided a cloth or blue wrap mask if they do not have their own.

2. Can a symptomatic visitor be allowed to enter a facility?

No.

3. Can a symptomatic caregiver (defined as someone deemed by the care teams to be necessary for optimal care of a patient) be allowed to enter a facility?

This is discouraged for both the safety of the caregiver and the patient. Discuss with the care team and attending physician. Exceptions may apply and will be addressed on case-by-case basis.

4. If a symptomatic patient or caregiver arrives wearing their own masks, do I need to give them a procedure mask instead?

Yes. After they remove their personal mask, please instruct them to put it away or store it with their belongings until they leave the facility.

5. Are symptomatic patients required to wear a mask? What if they refuse?

All patients are required to wear a mask unless they have a qualifying health condition.

If they refuse to wear a mask and are patients in a hospital-based clinic, staff must develop a workflow to safely isolate them for treatment.

If they refuse to wear a mask and are patients in a non-hospital-based clinic, staff may ask them to leave the clinic and assist them in scheduling a virtual visit instead.

Mary Bridge Children's ambulatory clinics require patients two years of age and older to wear a mask, except for those with developmental delays, sensory concerns or for specific therapy treatments.

6. Are symptomatic caregivers required to wear a mask? What if they refuse?

Symptomatic caregivers are required to wear a mask. If they refuse, we will still allow them to accompany the patient so we can provide care, but we will ensure that all staff interacting with the patient and caregiver are wearing adequate PPE. This scenario applies to parents with children.

Mary Bridge Ambulatory requires all caregivers to wear a mask. If they refuse, they may be asked to leave the clinic and assisted in scheduling a virtual visit instead.

7. Do children need to wear a mask?

Per the CDC, children two years old and under do not need to be masked. Other children should be provided with a mask.

8. Can asymptomatic patients, visitors or caregivers wear their own masks, or do they have to remove them and use a MultiCare-provided mask?

Asymptomatic patients, visitors and caregivers may use their own masks. There is no need to ask them to remove their masks and replace them with a MultiCare-provided mask.

9. If asked by a patient, caregiver or visitor how to clean a cloth mask, what should I say?

Laundering masks in hot water with detergent will provide adequate cleaning of a cloth mask. Blue wrap masks should be discarded once the wearer leaves the facility.