

Universal Masking for Source Control Employees and Patients

On Friday March 13th, Lifespan implemented universal masking for all employees as a means of source control. Source control is a method of protecting one another from each other's droplets. This very progressive practice has contributed to the safety of our employees as well as the patients they care for.

Lifespan will now be implementing "patient source control" for all patients entering an inpatient or outpatient Lifespan setting, regardless of their reason for being there. When developmentally and clinically appropriate, patients should wear a mask for their entire outpatient visit and if the patient is in the ED or on an inpatient unit, they should wear their mask any time a healthcare worker is in their room. The mask can be removed when the patient is alone in their inpatient room. These masks are the non-rated blue Medline masks that have no writing on them. The rated masks for staff have writing on them that says HALYARD "FLUIDSHIELD" Level 2.

1. **Outpatients:** Please ensure that masks are available at all patient entrances and provide a mask to any patient who is not already wearing one. Ambulatory patients can wear their own mask. Remind the patient that they should keep the mask on for the entire time they are in the building. If ambulatory patients will be returning regularly, (e.g., radiation oncology coming for daily treatments) and they are provided a mask, please ask them to wear that mask on all return visits.
2. **Emergency Departments:** All ED's should provide a mask for all patients who do not have one upon presentation, regardless of their symptoms. They can wear their home-made mask for the duration of their emergency department stay, but if they are admitted they should be provided a hospital surgical mask which they should use for the duration of their hospitalization.
3. **Admitted Patients:** All inpatients should have a mask in their room and should place it on their face when there is anyone else in the room. If the patient is unable to place their own mask, the clinician should do that for them. If an ancillary department member such as a housekeeper will be entering the room, they should ask the nurse to place the mask on the patient before they enter.

Who Should Wear a Mask	Type of Mask	When should mask be worn
All Outpatients	Personal mask or Medline unrated mask	During the entire outpatient visit
All ED Patients	Personal mask or Medline unrated mask	During the entire ED visit. If admitted, provide a Medline unrated mask
All Inpatients	Medline unrated mask	When anyone is in the patient's room
Employees	Level 2 Halyard mask or personal mask if not patient facing	While working in a Lifespan Setting



Lifespan
Delivering health with care.™

For Staff

For Patients



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