

COVID-19 Update

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020

To: Everyone at HHS

From: Leslie Gauthier, VP, Clinical Support Services and Surgery
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Subject: **Universal Masking Expanded**

Key Messages:

- **Universal masking is now in effect in all areas of HHS.**
- **Stringent PPE access and conservation measures are in place.**
- **The principles of handwashing and physical distancing are critical to stop the spread of COVID-19 even with universal masking.**

Universal masking update – What's new

We are mandating that staff and physicians wear a surgical mask as soon as they enter any HHS site to help address concerns related to physical distancing and help stop the spread of COVID-19. It's important to note that the need to keep at least two metres from any other person still applies even when wearing a mask.

Starting Friday (April 24) at all sites:

- Staff and physicians will get one surgical mask at screening at current designated staff entrances to our sites.
 - Everyone will don their mask when they enter their site.
 - Anyone working in an area where a Level 2 mask, or other mask, is clinically indicated will then change their mask on the unit based on a Point of Care Risk assessment.
 - Anyone working in an area where another level of mask is clinically indicated should store their Level 1 mask for reuse when their shift ends and wear that mask until they leave the site.
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Extended use of masks reminder

Everyone will now be universal masking and should practice extended use, and in appropriate areas, reuse of the mask through their daily workflow, as instructed.

- Once they don any mask, everyone should continue to wear the mask for the duration of their shift, regardless of where they go (unless they are required to don additional protection based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment)
- Staff should reuse their mask following breaks by using a plastic container. See [how in this video](#).

NOTE: If they don't already, staff should bring a plastic container to store their mask during the day when they don't need to wear it (because they're alone in an office or protected by a plexiglass barrier).
