

COVID-19 Update

Date: May 8, 2020
To: Everyone at HHS
From: PPE Task Force
Subject: **Universal Masking For ED Patients Starting May 11**

Starting Monday, May 11, universal masking will be required for all patients presenting to HHS Emergency Departments. In exceptional circumstances where a patient support person is essential, they will also be required to wear a mask.

This applies to the Emergency Departments at the Hamilton General, Juravinski, McMaster and West Lincoln sites.

Patients and support persons must keep the mask on while in the waiting room, the Emergency Department and into Medical Diagnostic Unit or Diagnostic Imaging if needed for their care.

If admitted, the patient will not be required to wear the mask once they get to their inpatient room.

The universal masking approach in the EDs aims to reduce transmission in high-risk environments and for those with potential risk of COVID exposure. Masking is required as an additional measure in these ED areas where physical distancing cannot successfully be maintained due to space limitations.

Resources For Universal Masking

The below posters were created to support awareness of universal masking at the unit level. Please post at the entrance of units where universal masking is or will be in place (ie, the EDs on May 11).

- [How to wear a mask](#)
- [Masking 101 at HHS](#)

More information about universal masking at HHS can be found [here](#).