



VENTURA COUNTY  
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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Owner: Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer, VCMC & SPH  
Policy Area: COVID-19  
References:

## Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Ventura County Medical System During COVID-19 Pandemic

### Guideline

Personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by Ventura County Medical System (VCMS) staff and licensed independent practitioners working in Ventura County Medical Center, Santa Paula Hospital, and Ambulatory Care Clinics shall be standardized.

There are no differences to PPE recommendations for those that have recovered from COVID-19 or been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 given uncertainty as to the duration of immunity to SARS-CoV-2, risk of reinfection from SARS-CoV-2, or potential to become infectious to others if re-exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

### Procedure

#### Prohibited face coverings:

Bandanas, neck gaiters, and vented facemasks of any kind are prohibited in the VCMS, as they do not provide adequate source control

Visitors presenting with a prohibited face covering should be offered a facemask. If the visitor refuses to wear an approved face covering, they may be refused entrance to VCMS properties

#### When Screening Patients at Entrances:

Screeners at the entrances to VCMS properties should wear a gown, gloves, goggles, and a simple non-respirator non-cloth facemask (medical / yellow earloop mask).

Gown: Unless visibly soiled, a single gown may be worn for an entire screening shift at VCMS entrances.

Mask: Unless wet or visibly soiled, do not change your mask throughout your shift. Recommend change to a new non-respirator non-cloth facemask daily

Gloves: Perform hand hygiene over your gloves regularly, and after making contact with a visitor, patient, or staff member.

Change gloves every 1-2 hours, and perform hand hygiene before donning a new pair of gloves.

After taking off your gloves, and before eating or drinking, perform hand hygiene.

Goggles should be cleaned per cleaning protocol, and reused for multiple shifts.

## **When Working in the Medical System and *Not* Providing Direct Clinical Care:**

### **Facemasks**

Facemasks (non-respirator) should be worn by staff in the hospital and ambulatory care clinical care areas at all times.

In interest of PPE conservation, when not providing direct clinical care, you may wear your facemask for as long as possible (up to a week) before changing to a new non-respirator facemask

Facemasks should be discarded when visibly soiled or wet, or after 1 day, whichever is sooner.

Facemasks will be available in your unit, or within your department

Facemask can be taken off in the break room prior to eating and drinking

Hand hygiene should be performed prior to and after touching your mask.

### **Cloth Facemasks**

When available, facemasks are preferred over cloth face masks for health care personnel (HCP) as facemasks offer both source control and protection for the wearer against exposure to splashes and sprays of infectious material from others

Cloth facemasks have value as source control, and may have some value in reminding us not to touch our face with our hands, but are not considered personal protective equipment.

As such, cloth facemasks should not be worn for direct patient care, except when all other resources have been exhausted.

Cloth masks should be laundered daily.

Cloth masks can be laundered by the hospital by placing in the white mesh laundry bag at the end of each day to be laundered.

Cloth masks should not be used to cover / protect a respirator (N95) as they may disrupt the fit of the respirator

When working in a non-clinical environment, if unable to regularly maintain 6 feet of distance between co-workers, a non-respirator non-cloth facemask (medical / yellow earloop mask) is preferred over a cloth facemask.

## **When Providing Direct Clinical Care to Patients WITHOUT Respiratory Symptoms:**

Facemasks (non-respirator) and eye protection (goggles or faceshield) should be worn by all staff for ALL patient encounters

For direct patient care of patients WITHOUT respiratory symptoms, you may continue to use the same mask for up to a day as long as it does not become wet or soiled. If using a single mask for an entire day, discard at the end of the workshift.

## When Providing Direct Patient Care to Patients with Known or Suspected SARS-CoV 2 Infection (COVID-19):

Wear a respirator (N95 or equivalent, such as Powered-Air Purifying Respirator or approved elastomeric facemask), gown, gloves, and eye protection (goggles or faceshield):

For patients undergoing aerosol generating procedures (AGPs), goggles that fit close to the face, with minimal gaps, are the preferred eye protection

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### Attachments

No Attachments

### Approval Signatures

| Step Description         | Approver   | Date       |
|--------------------------|--|------------|
| PolicyStat Administrator | Jason Arimura: Associate Hospital Administrator-Ancillary Services | 10/28/2021 |
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