



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

Origination: 7/22/2020
Last Approved: 1/6/2021
Last Revised: 1/6/2021
Next Review: 1/6/2024
Owner: Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer
Policy Area: COVID-19
References:

Use of Personal Protective Equipment in the Hospital During COVID-19 Pandemic

Guideline

Personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by Ventura County Medical System staff and licensed independent practitioners working in Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital 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

When Screening Patients at Hospital Entrances:

- It is recommended to wear a gown, gloves, goggles, and a simple non-respirator non-cloth facemask (medical / yellow earloop mask).
 - Gown: Unless visibly soiled, do not change your gown throughout your shift.
 - 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.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes or nose.

When Working in the Hospital and Not Providing Direct Clinical Care:

- Respirators (N95s) are **not** needed by staff when not in direct contact with patients.
- Facemasks (non-respirator) should be worn by all staff in hospital at all times, when not eating or drinking
 - In interest of PPE conservation, you should wear your facemask for as long as possible (up to a week)

before changing to a new non-respirator facemask

- 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
 - Make sure to use hand hygiene prior to and after touching your mask.
 - Facemasks should be discarded when visibly soiled or wet, or after 1 week.
- 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.
 - Place 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)

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

Prohibited face coverings include

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

When Working in the Hospital and 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.

When Providing Direct Patient Care to Patients with Known or Suspected Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Wear a respirator (N95 or equivalent), 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 for patients undergoing aerosol generating procedures
 - When providing direct patient care to a patient who is not wearing a facemask.
 - When entering the room of a patient on a ventilator.
- Wear a non-respirator facemask, gown, gloves, and eye protection (goggles or faceshield) for all other patient care encounters.

All revision dates:

1/6/2021, 12/24/2020, 12/7/2020, 10/9/2020, 8/12/2020, 7/22/2020

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Jason Arimura: Director-Pharmacy Services	1/6/2021
Policy Owner	Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer	1/6/2021