PPE Guidance: Patient Masking and Tips for Staff Masking
Issued 4/6/20

Patient Masking
Summary
Starting today, Monday, April 6, in an attempt to decrease COVID-19 spread by asymptomatic individuals, all patients in the settings below will be given one mask to wear for their visit or admission until visibly soiled or torn.

- **Ambulatory setting**
  - All patients with urgent visits and procedures
  - All patients presenting to Emergency Departments, Urgent Care sites and Obstetrics triage
  - Asymptomatic escorts of ambulatory patients

- **Inpatient setting**
  - All inpatients to wear a mask during transport out of their rooms and while in their rooms as tolerated (encouraging patients to wear in double rooms)
  - Patients on ventilators do not require masking
  - Essential visitors who are asymptomatic and entering the inpatient setting

- Please note that **patient and visitor masks are not to be saved** for future use.

Staff Masking
Summary
- **Wear your surgical mask at all times** when you are in the facility except for when eating and drinking
- **Avoid touching your face**, including when your mask is on
- **Be sure that both your mouth and nose are covered by the mask at all times**
- **Refrain from pulling your mask down to eat or drink in clinical areas.** While this is never in line with hospital policies, it may now put you at risk of self-contamination – especially if done while touching shared objects in clinical areas, such as computer keyboards and phones