

**Interim Guidelines for Use of Face Coverings and Personal Protective  
 Equipment by NYP Patients and Visitors  
 Updated June 17, 2020  
 (Replaces Interim Guidelines Published April 4, 2020)**

**KEY CHANGE**

- **In addition to wearing a face mask when outside of their hospital room, it is recommended that hospitalized patients wear a face mask while in their rooms when in close contact with another person, including health care personnel.**

As part of efforts to protect all patients, visitors, and health care personnel (HCP) from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, NYP recommends the use of a **face mask by all patients (regardless of SARS-CoV-2 test results), visitors, and HCP** at all inpatient and affiliated ambulatory locations. This is to reduce possible transmission from individuals who have mild or asymptomatic COVID-19. Exceptions can be made for adult or pediatric (e.g., < 2 years old) patients who cannot tolerate a face mask or other face covering. NYP will provide a face mask to all patients, visitors, and HCP, although in some situations as described below, patients and visitors may wear their own face covering.

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING NYP WILL BE ASKED TO IMMEDIATELY DON A MASK.**

<b>ADULT and PEDIATRIC PATIENTS</b>	
<b>Ambulatory Sites</b>	Mask should be worn throughout the visit until the patient leaves the facility. Asymptomatic patients may wear their own face covering, rather than a surgical mask. If a patient or visitor chooses to wear their own mask or respirator with an exhalation valve, this mask must be covered by a surgical mask.
<b>Emergency Rooms</b>	
<b>Inpatient Areas (other than Labor &amp; Delivery and Postpartum Units)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask should be worn while in open spaces and hallways.</li> <li>• Mask can be removed when inside a room, however, please note:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatients should be provided a mask and encouraged to wear it, if tolerated, <b>when HCP or visitors enter the room and come into close contact with the patient.</b></li> <li>• Masks do not need to be worn while the patient is asleep.</li> <li>• In multi-bedded patient rooms, patients do not need to wear a mask if the curtain is drawn between patient beds.</li> <li>• Although mask use is not recommended for children &lt;2 years of age, children &gt;2 years of age should be encouraged to wear a mask in the above situations as tolerated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Labor &amp; Delivery Units</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask should be worn throughout labor and delivery, as tolerated.</li> </ul>
<b>Postpartum Units</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask should be worn throughout hospitalization, including within patient's room.</li> </ul>
<b>Radiology Areas Peri-operative Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask should be worn throughout the visit, until the patient leaves the facility.</li> <li>• If the mask needs to be removed during a procedure, it should be put back on as soon as possible.</li> </ul>

<b>VISITORS TO ADULT and PEDIATRIC PATIENTS</b>	
<b>Visitors to patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All</b> visitors to patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should wear NYP-provided face mask, gown, and gloves throughout their visit in the patient's room. Eye protection should also be provided.</li> <li>• Prior to leaving the room, visitors should remove and discard their gown and gloves, perform hand hygiene, and then remove and discard eye protection and face mask. Hand hygiene should then be repeated.</li> <li>• The visitor should be provided with a new mask upon leaving the room.</li> </ul>
<b>Ambulatory Sites</b>	Surgical mask should be worn throughout the visit. Visitors may wear their own face covering, rather than a surgical mask. If a patient or visitor chooses to wear their own mask or respirator with an exhalation valve, this mask must be covered by a surgical mask.
<b>Emergency Rooms</b>	
<b>Inpatient areas (other than Labor &amp; Delivery, Post-Partum, and Pediatric Units)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All visitors to inpatient units should wear a surgical mask throughout their visit.</li> <li>• Additional personal protective equipment may also be required.</li> <li>• Additional information about visitation on inpatient units is available in <a href="#">General Visitation Guidelines</a></li> </ul>
<b>Pediatric Units (excluding Neonatal ICUs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The support person for a pediatric patient without COVID-19 should don a surgical mask when they arrive at the facility and wear it throughout their visit, including in the patient's room, until they leave the facility.</li> <li>• The support person should also don a gown and gloves if their clothing could become contaminated with secretions or excretions.</li> <li>• Additional information available in <a href="#">Interim Guidance for Parents/Guardian Visits to Pediatric Patients</a></li> </ul>
<b>Neonatal ICUs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All</b> visitors to the Neonatal ICUs should don a surgical mask, gown, and gloves throughout their visit, including in the patient's room.</li> <li>• Prior to leaving the Neonatal ICU, visitors should remove their gown and gloves at the bedside, perform hand hygiene, and continue to wear their masks throughout the facility.</li> </ul>
<b>Labor &amp; Delivery Units and Postpartum Units</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The support person and/or doula for a laboring woman should don a surgical mask when they arrive at the facility and wear it throughout their visit until they leave the facility.</li> <li>• Additional information available in <a href="#">Interim Guidance for Visitors to Labor and Delivery Unit</a></li> </ul>