**Universal Masking:**

**All staff/ practitioners are to wear a face mask at all times**

* N95 mask and face shield are to be worn with all patient contact within 6 feet
* Only Surgical masks are worn in patient care areas
* Cloth masks can be worn in office areas only
* One way valve masks must be covered with a surgical mask in NON-patient care areas
* Change masks per the organization’s set interval

**It’s all about the fit**

* To reduce gaps in a cloth or surgical mask and ensure a good fit, CDC recommends the following:
  + Mask fitter = create a snug fit at the back of the mask, buttons on hats or headband to pull the ear loops tight, worn over the mask to hold it tight to the face
  + Knotting the ear loops where they attach to the masks edges and tuck in any extra material
  + Use of a surgical mask with ties that can be tightened around the face
  + Double masking
* If you Double Mask
  + Valve mask in NON-patient care areas only with surgical mask cover continues to be allowed
  + **NO double masking with N95 at any time**
  + **NO double masking in any situation where PPE is required by policy or protocol for the delivery of patient care**
  + IF you currently wear a cloth mask [office based staff] you may wear 2 cloth masks or one cloth/one surgical [the surgical mask needs to be closest to your face], or 2 surgical
  + IF you currently wear a surgical mask you may wear 2 surgical masks. NO cloth.

**Patient Masking**

* Any patient outside their room (transported, ambulating), should wear a surgical face mask. Can be reused, stored in brown paper bag in between use. No cloth masks.
* All patients who can tolerate it should wear a surgical face mask while in their room and staff is present. The mask can be reused, stored in brown paper bag in between use. No cloth masks.
  + If patient is unwilling, provide education about reasons why mask is needed. Escalate to CN or unit leader for further discussion if needed.

**Visitor Masking**

* All visitors will be required to wear a surgical mask; If they do not have a surgical mask one will be provided to them
* Double masking is allowed to enter the facility, \*the bottom mask must be a surgical mask or higher [Ex. Their own N95]

**General use guidelines**

* Anytime a mask is removed, it must be stored in a brown paper bag or vented plastic wear.
* Strict hand hygiene is essential

**Universal Eyewear:**

**Any staff/practitioner that will be within 6ft of any patient must wear a face shield. If a face shield cannot be tolerated, goggles may be worn.**

* Face shields and goggles are single staff, multi-use items. The face shield/goggles are cleaned after actual contact with the patients or their direct environment, when suspected or actually soiled or upon removal. Clean with a Covid-19 approved disinfectant, if eye irritation exists the face shield/goggles can be rinsed with water. After cleaning, store in bag labeled with your name and keep with you.

Follow the COVID and Non-COVID PPE Grids for further instruction on eyewear use.