

4/10/20

Universal masking of patients

As COVID-19 continues to be widespread within our community and our hospital, we continue to recognize the role for transmission from asymptomatic persons in spreading disease. We recognize that in addition the community at large, patients admitted to the hospital for an unrelated reason may still have the potential for asymptomatic COVID-19 infection.

In accordance with recent guidance from the CDC for all persons to wear masks when in public spaces, every hospital visitor and admitted patient will be issued a surgical face mask for use on a daily basis. This mask should be kept in place whenever the patient is anticipated to have a prolonged encounter with a provider (i.e. meeting for > 15 minutes within a distance of 6 feet) or if the patient leaves the room for any reason.

Patient materials will soon be available for dissemination to help provide appropriate education on this new policy.