



*In this document, the term patient is inclusive of patient, resident and client

Medical mask - Refers to a procedure/surgical mask

NOTE: Face masks should not be placed on children under the age of 2 years^{1,2,3}

General Guidelines for Patients:

1. Must perform hand hygiene:
 - When entering and exiting the facility
 - Before leaving room and upon return
2. Must put on a mask (if tolerated) on entry to the facility.
3. Should be advised not to touch the outside of the mask. If they touch or adjust their face mask, they must immediately perform hand hygiene.
4. Should be provided with a new mask if it becomes wet, soiled or damaged.

Setting	Location	Masking Requirement**	Specific Instructions
Acute care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire facility (this includes inpatients when outside their room) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure physical distance of at least 2 metres between patients in waiting areas • For symptomatic patients, immediately move to a single room or separate waiting area away from others. Consider rescheduling non-urgent appointments for a later date • All inpatients on droplet/contact, droplet/contact plus and airborne precautions should remain in their room. If they must leave for medically necessary tests, they should perform hand hygiene and wear a medical mask
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside patient room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mask required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Long term care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mask required; however it is recommended[†] that residents wear a medical mask (as tolerated) in common areas of the facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Home care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client's home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mask required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None



Community (outpatient services in SHA operated facilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health (e.g., physiotherapy, home care, etc.) • Public Health (e.g., immunization clinic, etc.) • Testing and Assessment sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
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** Where applicable, follow Public Health Orders for masking requirements. In the event the Public Health Order conflicts with this document, the patient will be expected to follow the more stringent guidelines (Refer to the most current [Public Health Order](#)).

† Rationale for recommendation:

- Mass congregated living facilities with vulnerable residents are at elevated risk for COVID-19 outbreaks
- The residents room may be the equivalent of “home”; however, once they leave their room and walk through or sit in the common areas such as lounge, games room, elevator and corridors the situation is a closed space with potentially unpredictable contacts
- Wearing a mask is an additional layer of protection for vulnerable residents who can and want to use this strategy once they leave their rooms

References:

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Cloth Face Coverings For Children During COVID-19 [internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 October 23]. Available from: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) How to Select, Wear and Clean your Mask [internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 October 23]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings. 2020 [cited 2020 October 23]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>