

UPDATED MASKING GUIDELINES

Hospitals are changing their internal policies regarding the use of PPE face masks relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware that the policies are currently inconsistent across the healthcare systems and will do our best to keep everyone updated as practices evolve.

Medical grade Face Mask Guidelines at the moment:

Advocate Aurora: Optional ; Discretion is based on patients' symptoms or if patient asks providers to mask.

UCM AdventHealth (Glen Oaks): No longer requiring generally in clinical and non-clinical areas beginning April 1st.
However, if a patient requests that their healthcare providers wear a mask, then they must comply and wear a mask.

Ascension Hospitals: Still require visitors and staff to wear medical grade masks when within the facility

NorthShore hospitals (including NCH): masks are REQUIRED in patient facing areas - see below

NorthShore REVISED SYSTEM MASKING GUIDANCE: KEY TAKEAWAYS	
SETTING EXAMPLES	MASKING GUIDANCE
CLINICAL: ALL PATIENT CARE AREAS including the Emergency Departments, hospital Lobby, nurses station, open charting areas within clinical or patient care zones	Masks required at this time
NON-CLINICAL: Auditoriums within hospital settings, physician work rooms, staff break rooms, Education Center conference rooms, conference rooms within clinical buildings like hospitals or outpatient practices, offices or purely administrative areas where no patient care is delivered	<u>Required</u> when Community Transmission level is high <u>Not required</u> when transmission is low, moderate or substantial

Our last written communication from IDPH required EMS personnel to wear face masks when caring for patients. When we get further instructions from IDPH, we will also pass that information forward.

The Federal emergency declaration will sunset on May 11th. We expect more clarity on how this will impact EMS practice soon.

In the meantime, take usual and customary precautions as defined in our I2 policy whenever you suspect that a person has an infectious or communicable disease to protect yourself and the patient.