

SUMMARY OF UPDATES

The following sections have been updated as of 4/5/2022:

1. Due to increasing levels of community transmission of COVID-19, universal eye protection and N95 respirator use for all clinical care encounters is required.

Purpose	To provide guidance for PPE use for all healthcare personnel working at NYC H+H. This guidance applies to all NYC H+H sites that are regulated by New York State Department of Health (includes hospitals, post-acute, clinics and all NYC Health + Hospitals locations where healthcare delivery services are provided). Please note, all guidance is subject to change as additional information becomes available.
Scope	NYC Health + Hospitals Health System Clinical Care/Health Care Sites
Requirements	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Universal PPE Wear in all Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All HCP entering any health care setting at NYC Health + Hospital location regulated by NYS DOH are required to wear a facemask such as surgical or procedure mask, or N95 respirator or equivalent. Cloth masks are not allowed. This includes scarves, bandanas and cloth masks with exhalation valves • Facemasks are required in all clinical, non-clinical, administrative, public and communal spaces. • Facemasks are required regardless of staff’s past history of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and recovered or being fully vaccinated or up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations. <p>Facemasks are source control to prevent COVID-19 transmission and must fit closely to the face and cover the mouth and nose.</p> <p>Source control refers to use of respirators or well-fitting facemasks (i.e., surgical or procedure masks) to cover a person’s nose and mouth to prevent spread of respiratory secretions when they are breathing, talking, sneezing, or coughing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facemasks (N95 respirator, surgical and procedure masks) may be worn repeatedly from patient to patient and for entire shift unless it is damaged, wet or contaminated with patient blood and/or body fluids (includes nasal or respiratory secretions) OR if it becomes difficult to breathe through.

	<p>NOTE: Facemasks (N95 respirator, surgical and procedure masks) and all additional PPE donned must be discarded after a clinical encounter with a patient on transmission-based precautions.</p> <p>Source control options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator OR • A well-fitting facemask such as a surgical or procedure mask • Cloth masks are <u>not allowed</u>. This includes scarves, bandanas and cloth masks with exhalation valves. 								
<p>PPE Required for Confirmed or Possible SARS-CoV-2 Infection</p>	<p>PPE required for health care personnel (HCPs) caring for patients with confirmed or possible SARS-CoV-2 Infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 Respirator or equivalent or higher-level respirator • Isolation gown • Gloves (1 pair) • Eye Protection (face shield or goggles) 								
<p>PPE Required for patients NOT suspected or confirmed or Possible SARS-CoV-2 Infection</p>	<p>All Clinical Care Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When caring for patients not suspected of COVID-19 during times of moderate to high levels of community transmission, HCP must wear N95 respirator or equivalent, and eye protection in addition to transmission-based precautions as indicated. 								
<p>Universal PPE Use for HCP Based on Local Community Transmission Levels</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="462 1291 917 1438"> Level of Community Transmission (based on NYC DOHMH and CDC indicators) </th> <th data-bbox="917 1291 1388 1438"> Universal PPE for <u>All Clinical Care Encounters When Not Suspecting COVID-19</u> </th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1438 917 1512">High levels of community transmission</td> <td data-bbox="917 1438 1388 1512">N95 Respirator and Eye Protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1512 917 1585">Medium/Moderate levels of community transmission</td> <td data-bbox="917 1512 1388 1585">N95 Respirator and Eye Protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1585 917 1732">Low levels of community transmission</td> <td data-bbox="917 1585 1388 1732">Well-fitting facemask (N95 respirator, surgical or procedure mask)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level of Community Transmission (based on NYC DOHMH and CDC indicators)	Universal PPE for <u>All Clinical Care Encounters When Not Suspecting COVID-19</u>	High levels of community transmission	N95 Respirator and Eye Protection	Medium/Moderate levels of community transmission	N95 Respirator and Eye Protection	Low levels of community transmission	Well-fitting facemask (N95 respirator, surgical or procedure mask)
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<p>N95 Respirator Use</p>	<p>NIOSH-approved N95 Respirator User Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The User must be appropriately fit tested and trained on donning and doffing of the N95 respirator upon onboarding then annually, a change in N95 respirator model at the facility or a 10-pound weight gain or loss <p>NIOSH-approved N95 respirators or equivalent or higher-level respirators must be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with confirmed or possible SARS-CoV-2 infection when being evaluated medically Caring for a patient on Airborne Precautions or Airborne + Contact + Eye Protection Precautions OR Enhanced Droplet + Contact + Eye Protection Precautions All aerosol-generating procedures regardless of SARS-CoV-2 infection status All clinical care encounters 	
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>Aerosol Generating Procedure</p>	<p>Any procedure carried out on a patient that may produce infectious aerosols or droplets</p>
	<p>Clinical Care Encounter</p>	<p>Any interaction between patient and healthcare personnel for the purpose of providing healthcare service(s) or assessing the health status of a patient</p>
	<p>Eye Protection</p>	<p>Includes face shield/visors and goggles</p>
	<p>Healthcare Personnel (HCP)</p>	<p>HCP refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances; contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. This includes but not limited to, all healthcare workers, all affiliates, all staff, temporary staff, students, and volunteers.</p>
	<p>Healthcare Settings</p>	<p>Refers to places where healthcare is delivered and includes, but is not limited to, acute care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long term care facilities, nursing homes, home healthcare, test and trace, vehicles where healthcare is delivered, correctional facilities and outpatient facilities including dialysis centers, physician offices and dental clinics.</p>

	<p>N95 Respirator</p> <p>A N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.</p>
	<p>Source Control</p> <p>Use of respirators, well-fitting facemasks to cover a person’s nose and mouth to prevent spread of respiratory secretions to others when a person talks, sneezes, or coughs.</p>
References	<p>CDC- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Infection-Control</p>

Reviewed and/or Revised

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4/5/2022

Prepared by:

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Previous Versions of this Guidance

Signature	Title	Date
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 1 - February 27, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 2/3 - Revised March 24, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 4 – Revised April 13, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 5 – Revised May 5, 2020

Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 6 – Revised May 26, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 7 – Revised June 10, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 8 – Revised September 28, 2020
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 9 – Revised January 13, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 10 – Revised March 12, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 11 – Revised May 14, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 12 – Revised August 16, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 13 – Revised October 21, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 14 – Revised November 29, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 15 – Revised December 20, 2021
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 16 – Revised January 14, 2022
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 17 – Revised March 3, 2022
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 18 – Revised March 14, 2022
Machelle Allen	SVP/CMO	Version 19 – Revised April 5, 2022

