

# Face Masks – Frequently Asked Questions

## Do I need to wear a mask at Mercy Medical Center?

Yes, masks are required for all staff, patients and visitors. We strongly encourage visitors and patients to bring their own mask or cloth face covering when arriving at our facilities.

## What if I don't have a mask?

If you don't have your own mask or cloth face covering, we will provide a disposable paper mask.

## Is there still a shortage of masks?

Because the Central Valley has done a relatively good job of flattening the curve, our supplies of personal protective equipment are in good shape. However, we are continuing our conservation efforts to ensure that our hospitals and clinics have what they need to safely deliver care to our communities.

## What are the different types of masks?

Here are the primary types of masks or face coverings:

- Cloth face-covering - this protects others from germs breathed out by the person wearing it.
- Procedure/ surgical mask - this protects the person wearing the mask from germs in the air.
- N95 mask or respirator - this mask provides the greatest level of protection to the person wearing the mask.

## What kind of mask should I wear?

It depends. If you are healthy and don't have underlying conditions, you can wear a cloth face covering to reduce others' exposure to germs you might breathe out. If you are caring for someone who has or who might have COVID-19, you will want to wear a mask that offers greater protection.

## Why does my nurse wear a different type of mask?

Nurses, doctors and others may need to wear masks that offer stronger protection, depending on what they're doing. This is especially true if the patient either has or might have COVID-19.

## Are there special guidelines for cloth face coverings?

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has shared a helpful set of instructions and guidelines on cloth face coverings. Be sure to use materials that can be safely laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

## What's important to remember when wearing a mask?

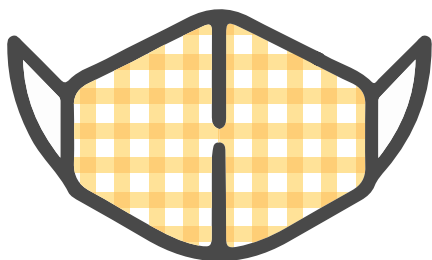
There are a few things to keep in mind:

- Make sure your mask fits snugly against the side of your face.
- Wash or sanitize your hands before you put your mask on.
- Adjust the mask to cover your nose and chin.
- Avoid touching your mask while you're wearing it.

# Masking Requirements for Caregivers, Patients and Visitors

Safety remains our top priority and as such, caregivers, permitted visitors and patients are required to wear a mask or cloth face covering while in any Mercy Medical Center facility.

## Cloth Face Covering



Prevents the wearer from spreading germs while talking, sneezing or coughing.

### Who should wear it?

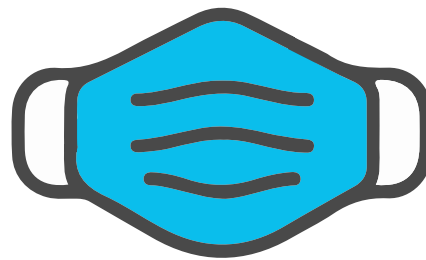
People who don't feel or show any COVID-19 symptoms.

### When or where to wear it?

In public places that are indoors and/ or enclosed or where people gather:

- Medical Offices
- Hospitals
- Stores
- Office Buildings

## Procedure/Surgical Mask



Prevents the wearer from spreading germs while talking, sneezing, coughing, etc.

Protects the wearer's mouth and nose

from respiratory droplets created by others when they talk, cough or sneeze.

### Who should wear it?

- Patients who show symptoms of illness.
- Caregivers in medical offices or hospitals who interact with patients and visitors.

### When or where to wear it?

In hospital or medical offices

## N95 Respirator



This protects the wearer from germs in the smallest type of airborne.

### Who should wear it?

Caregivers who care for patients on isolation precautions. Caregivers who are caring for patients who either have or might have COVID-19 and who are undergoing aerosol-gathering procedures.