

## **Use of Face Masks and Face Coverings in Healthcare Settings – Staff Briefing Note**

### **Who should wear a Face Mask (hospital issued FRSM-TYPE IIR)?**



All staff when working in hospitals, care homes, health centres, patients homes who interact with patients or residents (including when taking patients out on escort), are required to wear a hospital issued Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (FRSM-TYPE IIR) throughout their shift including when away from patients.

#### **FRSM-TYPE IIR**

If staff are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons this must be highlighted to their manager as they may need to be moved to a non-patient facing area.

While within 2 metres when giving patient direct general care, staff must wear a fluid resistant surgical mask (FRSM-TYPE IIR).

Note: other PPE requirements are determined by the patient pathway and risk assessment.

### **Face Coverings**



Must not be worn in clinical areas.

Staff in non-clinical, non-public areas and offices must wear a face covering as a minimum or, a Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask (FRSM-TYPE IIR) where 2m Social Distancing cannot be achieved, and when circulating areas.

#### **Face Covering**

**Compliance with hand hygiene and social distancing continue to be critical in all settings at all times. Please refer to the Social Distancing Risk Assessment for your work area.**

It is extremely important for us all to do everything we can to respect each other's personal space and to keep two metres apart wherever possible, particularly in areas like rest rooms, kitchens and café areas.

**Staff should not wear their own face coverings when carrying out clinical duties or in a clinical area.**

### **How to use Face Masks and Coverings:**

- **Good hand hygiene is essential at all times**, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 15-30 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting on a face mask or covering.

- Masks and face coverings can be removed during meal breaks when eating/drinking, **but the 2 metre physical distancing guidance must be adhered to**. Masks and coverings should be placed back on when finished eating/drinking even if staff remain on their break.
- FRSM-TYPE IIR should be disposed of in the correct waste receptacle **these masks are one use only and should be changed between patients and after doffing them**. FRSM-TYPE IIRs can be worn when going between patients on the medium (amber) and low (green) risk pathways however, FRSMs should be changed if wet, damaged, soiled or uncomfortable and must be changed after having provided care for a patient isolated with any other suspected or known infectious pathogens and when leaving high-risk (red) pathway areas’.
- Decontaminate your hands and change your mask if you cough or sneeze into it

### **Face Masks (FRSM-TYPE IIRs)**

#### **Do's**



#### **Don't**



Hyperlink for advice on wearing a face mask below:

[https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3105/documents/1\\_covid-19-wearing-facemask-staff.pdf](https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3105/documents/1_covid-19-wearing-facemask-staff.pdf)

### **Face Coverings**

Should be:

- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least 2 layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends 3, depending on the fabric used)
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric

**Do's**



**Don't**



Hyperlink for advice on wearing a non- medical face mask/face covering below:

[https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3119/documents/1\\_covid-19-wearing-facemask-public.pdf](https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3119/documents/1_covid-19-wearing-facemask-public.pdf)

For information on correct use of PPE, including how to dispose of it safely, see our [PPE Donning & Doffing Poster](#).

**Please ensure all staff are briefed on this information and have the opportunity to ask questions. It is essential that staff understand the control measures in place in their area of work.**