



St. Ann's Staff: Mandatory Personal Protective Equipment Use Implementation

* *This is a mandatory PPE use procedure, beginning Monday, April 6, to meet CDC recommendations.*

St. Ann's Personal Protective Equipment Implementation Steps & Description:

All staff members will wear standard isolation masks while at work. Masks will be distributed beginning 6 a.m. Monday, April 6 in the Main Lobby as you enter. Supplemental masks will be available on nursing units, to be distributed by supervisors, as appropriate. **NOTE:** This action meets CDC guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among staff and to residents. *Any staff who, at any time, will care for COVID-19 positive residents will follow separate CDC PPE guidelines.*

Staff members who interact with residents will follow these guidelines for using your PPE:

- The mask should be worn continuously and should only be changed if / when it is saturated or contaminated.
- The mask can be used for multiple resident encounters, for an entire shift.
- Do not touch the outside of your mask or pull your mask up and down over your chin.
- If your mask is removed, perform hand hygiene and place your mask in a safe storage area (example: paper bag) with your name, date, and shift time. Multiple paper bags can be used throughout the day to ensure proper infection prevention.
- Perform hand hygiene when re-donning your mask.
- Discard your mask at the end of your shift.

Other Guidelines:

- Symptomatic Residents: All symptomatic residents should be given one standard isolation mask and instructed to wear it. Follow the direction of St. Ann's Infection Preventionist and the COVID-19 Response Team when determining whether a resident is suspected or positive.
- Visitors: Any approved visitors should be given one standard isolation mask for the duration of their visit.
- Wearing masks over masks: Currently, we do not recommend wearing a standard isolation mask over an N-95 mask. This practice would decrease our supply of PPE necessary to care for our residents.
- N-95 Respirator masks: N-95 mask should be worn only during aerosolizing procedures or sustained exposure of suspect and with confirmed COVID-19 residents.

Guidelines for staff who do not interact with residents:

- When and where: All staff who move about St. Ann's but do not enter a resident room will wear washable cloth masks when not in an office or are otherwise alone.
- The capability of homemade facemask to protect the healthcare provider is unknown but is appropriate in a non-clinical space, per the CDC.
- Homemade masks should be used in clinical settings only when there is an exhaustion of standard PPE with proven protective value.