

 		CLACKAMAS & WASHINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES		
EMS Clinical Notification				
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ENTER NAME/TITLE HERE (signature on line below): DR. RITU SAHNI, MD, MPH, FAEMS		TITLE: UPDATED PPE AND MASK GUIDELINES		

Mask Guidance Update

Hi!

The Federally declared emergency for COVID-19 has lapsed and the World Health Organization has also declared that the state of emergency has concluded.

As of today, masking is no longer required for EVERY patient contact.

To protect our patients and colleagues, a mask (surgical is adequate) is required in the following circumstances:

- Caring for a potentially immunocompromised patient. This may include patients on chemotherapy, immune suppression medications, extremes of age, etc.
- If you have symptoms such as: cough, congestion, sore throat, etc.
- If requested to do so by the patient.
- If a healthcare facility requires that you wear a mask for entry

To protect ourselves, masking is required (N95 would be preferred) in the following circumstances:

- Caring for a patient with a potential infectious disease, such as pneumonia, sepsis, etc. Symptoms may include fever, cough, congestion, diarrhea, vomiting, etc. If tolerated, a mask should be placed on the patient and any family/bystanders with similar symptoms.
- When performing an aerosolizing procedure such as intubation, cardiac arrest management, other airway management.

Any staff or crew who prefer to continue wearing a mask is permitted to do so.

While the “emergency” may be over, COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities and patients may still be asymptomatic. Additionally, there continues to be the possibility of other emerging infectious disease threats. Masking is a significant public health intervention that can be used to mitigate the spread of disease and may be required should new or returning infectious threats emerge.



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