

COVID19 FAQs and Quick Links

How does SARS-CoV-2 spread?

Droplets

- Infectious droplets expelled when a person talks, sings, coughs, sneezes
- Travel up to 6 feet before falling to ground
- Cause direct infection when they contact eyes or mucous membranes of nose or mouth
- Contaminate surfaces

Fomites

- Surfaces contaminated by infectious droplets
- At this point, duration of viable virus on surfaces is unknown but probably days
- Cause indirect infection through hand contact with surfaces and subsequent direct inoculation of eyes or mucous membranes

Aerosols

- Small infectious droplet nuclei (<5µm)
- Remain suspended in air
- Small enough to be inspired into small airways
- Role of aerosols in transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is still uncertain
- However, based on transmission dynamics, we DO NOT believe that aerosols remain suspended in air with ability to travel great distances akin to other 'Airborne' infections such as Measles, Varicella, or Tuberculosis.

N95 masks are to be used as a part of necessary PPE when deemed based on the recommended PPE for outpatient management of asymptomatic patients (see below) and can be used for the Day.

At the end of the day, N95 masks are to be placed in the reprocess bin. As a reminder, men with beards are unable to achieve a proper seal with N95 masks and no makeup can be worn because this soils the N95 and it can't be reprocessed.

Face shields can be used for an extended period of time, provided proper disinfectant process, storage and integrity is maintained. Please see specific instructions below.

1. **Detailed N95 and Face Shield Instruction Sheet:** https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/N95%20Respirators%20and%20Face%20Shields-Instructions%20for%20Extended%20Use%20and%20Re-Use_04.14.20_0.pdf

2. **N95 Seal Check:** <https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/3MWearItRightPoster.pdf>
3. **Face Shield Instruction Sheet:** We currently have the disposable on the top of the page. https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/Face%20Shield%20Tip%20Sheet_04.22.20.pdf
4. **Facemasks (ear loop) and Face Shields extended use tip sheet:** https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/Face%20Masks%20and%20Face%20Shields-Instructions%20for%20Extended%20Use%20and%20Reuse_04.20.20.pdf
5. **PPE for Outpatient Management of Asymptomatic Patients:** https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/Recommended%20Personal%20Protective%20Equipment%20for%20Outpatient%20Management%20of%20Asymptomatic%20Patients%20050720_APPROVED.pdf
6. **Universal Masking (staff, patients and visitors):**

Until further notice, all staff and visitors are required to wear a Duke issued facemask while at one of our hospitals or clinics. Hospitalized patients are required to wear masks while outside of their inpatient room (e.g., while traveling for procedures, participating in physical therapy). All employees are required to wear a Duke-issued mask for their entire shifts and will be provided a replacement if the mask becomes wet, visibly soiled or damaged. **PDC team members are required to wear a Duke issued face mask while working in our clinics. Pts and visitors are also required to wear a Duke issued face mask while visiting our clinics.**

7. **Are any of the following considered acceptable to wear while visiting our clinics:** Buffs, homemade masks, vented N95s or similar type devices, hijabs, any type of clothing used as a mask, paper or plastic covering the mouth and nose, bandanas, ski masks, hoods of any type.

No, only Duke issued face masks are considered acceptable while visiting our clinics.

Suggested scripting for Staff When Providing Masks to Patients/Visitors That Have Masks:“For your protection and to protect others, it is our policy that all patients, visitors, and staff wear Duke issued facemasks while in our facility. You are welcome to use your mask and dispose of ours when you leave our building”.

8. Is there a specific way I should be placing my mask in the brown paper bag and later taking it out? Why do I need to do it this way?

Yes, there is: Do not touch your mask without performing hand hygiene. This practice alone will prevent contamination. **To avoid potential contamination, perform hand hygiene, remove mask by touching the elastic ear loops or ties, fold the mask so that the outer layer is folded on itself, and then place it into the brown paper bag.** This method decreases any possibility of contamination while the mask is inside the bag. Once safely stored in the paper bag, perform hand hygiene again.

9. Can expired hand hygiene and disinfectant products continue being used?

No, it is recommended that only products that are “in current date” be used.

10. Do we really have to practice social distancing during meals and breaks?

Yes! To decrease the potential for clusters of spread between HCWs during breaks and meals.

https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/How%20To%20Safely%20Share%20Meals%20with%20Others%20at%20Work%20During%20COVID-19%20Pandemic_04.20.20.pdf

https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/Keeping%20Yourself%20and%20Your%20Team%20Members%20Safe_04.07.2020.pdf

11. What is considered “prolonged time”?

Healthcare

- Prolonged (> 15 minutes) close (< 6 feet) contact AND
- Not wearing facemask OR not wearing eye protection if the patient is unmasked OR not wearing all recommended PPE while performing an aerosol-generating procedure

Community

- Household member or intimate partner
- Individual providing care in the household without using recommended infection control practices
- Prolonged (>15 minutes) close (< 6 feet) contact

12. If you think you may have been exposed at work, please review the following: Employee Exposure Risk Assessment and FAQ: https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/FAQ%20on%20COVID19%20Transmission%20and%20Exposure%20Risk%20for%20Team%20Members_04.24.20_0.pdf

https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/FAQ%20on%20COVID-19%20Transmission%20and%20Exposure%20Risk%20for%20Team%20Members_04.24.20_0.pdf

13. What do I do if I think I am allergic to the facemask, gloves, or hand hygiene products?

Discuss with your manager and contact Employee Health (EOHW) at 919-684-3136

14. PPE Guidance for Taking Care of Patients from Congregate Living Settings:

https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/Isolation%20Sign%20Education_Special%20Droplet%20%26%20Contact%20Precautions_APPROVED.pdf

15. Infection Prevention Hot Topics 5-29-20 (hyperlinks in this document have already been provided above)

https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/sites/covid-19.dukehealth.org/files/IP-%20Preventing%20COVID%20Transmission_APPROVED.pdf

16. All of these questions are great, but what do I do if I still have a question that hasn't been addressed on this sheet?

- a. **Speak with your manager (HCA)**
- b. **Contact your IC Nurse (Gina Green 919-451-8828)**
- c. **Contact your Regional Director or other PDC leadership**