

## **Updated guidance regarding use of medical mask at Concordia Hospital and Concordia place.**

As COVID-19 is expected to be a part of our 'new normal', efforts are underway to find a longer-term balance between preventing the spread of this virus and ensuring we are able to ensure safe interaction between patients and their loved ones.

### **Updated guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recommends the use of medical masks by all staff, physicians, vendors, in-patients, out patients and visitors to acute health-care facilities and personal care homes as of March 15, 2021.**

**Visitors, outpatients, vendors** will be provided a medical mask by screeners at the front and ground floor entrance to wear for the duration of their visit. This requirement applies to all who visit health-care facilities, including outpatients attending medical appointments (e.g. for diagnostic tests, blood work, etc.). With the exception of specific exemptions made on a case-by-case basis, individuals who are not wearing a mask will not be admitted.

Outpatients are asked to arrive at the facility wearing a non-medical (e.g. cloth) mask which they may change once provided a medical mask. Everyone in the hospital must wear a medical mask.

**Inpatients** will also be provided with medical masks on the unit. It is our goal to protect you from the many viruses and germs that normally exist in any hospital setting. We kindly ask patients to remain in their rooms as much as possible. Our care team will be happy to assist patients if there's anything they need.

We recognize there are times when it is absolutely necessary for patients to leave their rooms to attend a medical test or appointment off the unit or to briefly go outside. During these instances, patients are required\* to wear a facility-provided procedure mask each time they leave the room.

Patients will be provided with two procedure masks per day and will receive instruction on the importance of hand hygiene and how to remove and store the mask as well as how to reapply the mask during the course of a single day.

Patients are asked to please keep the mask on the entire time they are away from the room, unless instructed otherwise by our staff in order to receive care. It is important to stay 6 feet apart from others and use the hand sanitizer stations to clean your hands. Germs are everywhere and most are spread by hand contact or coughing and sneezing.

**Staff and Physicians: Medical Masks will be available** in a plastic bag for replacement after breaks and to take home to wear when entering the facility at the next shift

Staff and physicians are asked to please exit the hospital wearing the medical mask they have on, ensuring they have a clean medical mask in a clean, clear plastic bag to use as they enter the hospital for your next shift.

**Hand Sanitizer should be used before:**

- getting a mask from the inventory
- putting a clean mask in the plastic bag
- taking a clean mask out of the bag
- before donning and after doffing a mask

Any staff member who has forgotten to pick up medical mask, please report DIRECTLY to their area and doff their personal mask and don a medical mask upon arrival.

Staff will no longer be re-using masks after break times so are asked to please take a mask as they go for break so they can don the clean mask after the break to return to work area.

We continue to monitor the impact and need for additional measures as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves and remain thankful for the cooperation and understanding of all Manitobans as we take every measure to protect you, your loved one(s) and our staff. Please continue to look out for each other and follow this guideline and the basics (physical distancing, hand hygiene, mask use) to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely ,

Valerie Wiebe  
President & COO Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place