

On Site Clear Mask Use Guidelines

When to Use:

Assign a staff to wear a clear mask for the day.

Clear masks should be worn with patients that are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, DeafBlind or have communication challenges. Refer to CDC's Guideline. Guide all incoming patients to work with that appointed staff member.

Wearing with COVID-19 positive, Contact Precautions or PUI patients:

- If the patient is on contact precautions, the clear mask must be discarded after each patient encounter.
- If a COVID-19 positive patient or PUI patient is undergoing an AGP, a N95 Mask should be worn.
- Do not touch your mask during direct patient care, remove your mask holding the straps and discard it.

Cleaning Guidelines for Reuse:

- For patients who meets CDC's description¹ that are COVID-19 negative and not on isolation precautions, the Clear Mask may be worn across multiple encounters.
- Do not touch your mask during direct patient care.
- Masks can be wiped down after each patient encounter with an approved cleaning product for COVID-19.
- Once dry, store your mask by folding it in half and make sure the clean interior sides together before placing in a paper bag labeled with your name.
- The mask may be re-worn until damaged or soiled.
- If your mask becomes wet, torn, or soiled, remove your mask holding the straps and discard it.

¹ Refer to page one.

[COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Masks | CDC](#)

PUI (Patients Under Investigation)

AGP (Aerosol Generating Procedure)

General Clear Mask Use Guidelines

Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with:

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing that rely on lipreading. Keep in mind not everyone is proficient at lipreading.
- Young children learning to lipread or understanding spoken English.
- People learning a new language (English) rely on lipreading (often more than realized).
- People with additional disabilities who rely on facial expressions to communicate like the way hearing people rely on intonation.) If a person's face is covered, it can trigger anxiety or commotion for some.



If you use this type of mask, make sure:

- You can breathe easily
- Excess moisture does not collect on the inside of the mask
 - You remove the mask before sleeping, since the plastic part could form a seal around your mouth and nose and make it hard to breathe

There are several easy methods to improve the performance of your mask. Visit CDC's [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19](#) webpage to learn more. You can also learn more by reading about a [CDC study](#) conducted in a laboratory that tested the performance of different mask combinations.

The above information is adopted from the CDC guidance on using clear mask.