

Permissive masking guidelines



UCLA Health has implemented a permissive masking policy, and masks may now be worn throughout the facility at the health care worker's discretion. It is incumbent upon all of us to be effective and vigilant stewards of our PPE, specifically masks, which can be in short supply.

Upon arrival

Broader use of masks by health care workers may be considered for:

- Those who may be at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease or living at home with individuals who are:
 - 65 years of age or older
 - Pregnant
 - Immunocompromised or who have other serious chronic illnesses (i.e. chronic lung disease)
- Asymptomatic health care workers in clinical areas who currently or recently have been exposed to a close contact (i.e. a household member) exhibiting contagious respiratory symptoms.
- Recovering from COVID-19 disease and have returned to work as a result of complete resolution of symptoms, per UCLA Health policy.
- Exposed to a known COVID-19 case without wearing appropriate PPE, but did not have high-risk exposure.

It is important to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or greater, even in the hospital setting. Individual use of masks may be considered among health care workers when physical distancing is not feasible (i.e. in physician workroom).

The above list is not meant to be exhaustive, and individual circumstances may warrant additional exceptions.

Please note: Only masks may be worn in non-patient care environments. No additional PPE, such as surgical booties and bonnets, is permitted outside of clinical care.

Upon departure

- Masks should be discarded when they are soiled, damaged or increasingly difficult to breathe through.
- It is imperative that we remain vigilant in our efforts to conserve PPE.
- A health care worker who decides to wear a facemask for purposes other than direct patient care should limit use to one facemask per day. Prior guidance about use of PPE should be followed for direct patient care activities.
- Masks should be dispensed by UCLA Health and not purchased elsewhere or homemade.

It is the responsibility of our staff and faculty to continue to preserve our mask supply for our colleagues.