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What does ‘universal masking’ mean at RVH?

A universal masking policy means asking all people who come to the hospital to wear a mask, even if they do not have any signs of an infection.

Masking of all patients and essential visitors may have benefits such as reducing the spread of COVID-19 by the wearer and protecting the wearer from respiratory droplets shed by others.

Bringing your own clean mask is allowed and encouraged. For those who do not have their own mask, RVH will provide handmade cloth masks that have been generously donated by members of our community, and laundered at the hospital.

If there is a reason why you are not able to wear a mask, such as a health condition that may make it hard for you to breathe, tell the screening person and they will discuss your situation and options.

Please leave your mask on the entire time you are inside the hospital. Only remove it at the exit. If you must take it off to eat or drink, or as part of your medical appointment, first wash your hands and then remove your mask carefully, without touching your face.

Receptacles will be available at the exit to deposit masks as you leave, so they can be laundered again and safely reused.

Guide to using cloth masks

- Clean your hands: Before you put a clean mask on, before removing your mask, after removing your mask. Avoid touching your face at any time with unwashed hands.
- Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth and does not slip down. Do not touch the front of the mask while you are wearing it. If you have to adjust your mask, clean your hands before and after touching the mask.
- Remove your mask by pulling on the ear loops or ties, being careful not to touch your face or the front of the mask.
- Laundering: wash your mask when it is soiled, and ideally daily. Launder with hot water and regular laundry detergent. Discard your mask if it cannot be cleaned or if it is torn or damaged.



It's very important to note that wearing of masks does not guarantee protection or replace practising all of the precautions—physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, self-isolation if indicated.