

## GUIDELINES FOR OPTIONAL MASK STRATEGY

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|    | <p>You may not wear your optional mask when providing care for patients in droplet or airborne precautions (such as known or suspected COVID-19).</p> <p><b>Before entering the space for patients in droplet or airborne precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform hand hygiene</li> <li>▪ Remove and store your mask</li> <li>▪ Follow appropriate PPE recommendations for airborne or droplet precautions</li> </ul> |
|    | <p><b>Your optional mask should be on your face over your nose and mouth or in safe storage.</b> It should not be hanging from one ear, under your nose or chin or around your neck.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|   | <p><b>Remove your optional mask to eat or drink or use the restroom,</b> and safely store for later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remember to perform hand hygiene <b>before</b> and <b>after</b> handling your mask</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <p><b>Discard mask in regular trash</b> if it becomes <b>wet</b> or <b>visibly contaminated</b> or is <b>torn</b>. The mask can be replaced in your department. If your department does not carry masks, you may request at a check-in station.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <p><b>A dry, unsoiled, undamaged optional mask may be reused</b> for one day, especially if it has been worn sparingly, such as for a single patient encounter. Please store it safely in a clean environment if you plan to reuse this precious resource. At the end of your shift, deposit the used mask in a PPE Reprocessing Bin (they are located at the employee screening stations and on some units).</p>                                   |
|  | <p><b>Please avoid touching the outside of your mask</b> as much as possible and immediately perform hand hygiene if you must readjust the fit of your mask.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | <p><b>For storage,</b> your mask should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a breathable container, such as a paper bag. Do not store in a sealed plastic bag where it can retain moisture.</p>                                                                                                  |