


‘Surgical mask wear for Acute Respiratory Illness At-a-Glance’

What to wear	<p>A fluid repellent surgical mask is worn to protect the wearer from the transmission of respiratory droplets. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •be well fitted covering both nose and mouth; •not be allowed to dangle around the neck of the wearer after or between each use; •not be touched once put on. <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A face shield, visor or safety goggles that cover the front and sides of the face may be worn as well as fluid-resistant surgical mask for protection against splash or spray.
When to wear	<p>Surgical face masks must be worn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •for all suspected/ confirmed acute respiratory illness as standard care (level 1) •during any activities/procedures where there is a risk of splashing or spraying of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions onto the respiratory mucosa. <p style="text-align: center;">**If a patient with acute respiratory illness requires an ‘aerosol generating procedure’ (AGP) then an FFP3 is required. **</p>
How long can you wear mask?	<p>Standard practice is that masks should be changed at the end of each clinical interaction</p> <p>If working in an area where patients with respiratory illness or Covid are cohorted, the same mask can be worn for more than one patient. In this context masks should be changed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when they become moist or damaged (<i>wet masks can have increased resistance to airflow and become less efficient at filtering organisms- typically after 1-2hours</i>) • when leaving the cohorted clinical area <p><i>Once removed, dispose of mask immediately. Used masks are potentially contaminated and pose a risk of transmission. Hand hygiene should be performed after disposal of mask</i></p> <p>DO NOT wear masks around the neck or carry used masks in pockets</p> <p>DO NOT wear masks across the designated line in communal areas</p>
Removing mask	<p>Masks should be doffed carefully and safely following Trust Doffing Guidance.</p> <p><u>REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfasten ties- first bottom, then top (if elasticated remove from one ear then other) 2. Close eyes, Pull away from the face without touching front of mask 3. Discard in clinical waste - CLEAN HANDS.