

## **Patient and Visitor masking - Questions and Answers**

### **Why do I have to wear a mask at LHSC?**

Some people who have COVID-19 may not experience symptoms, but can still spread the virus. Masking is a widely accepted and proven method to help stop spreading COVID-19. The person wearing the mask is protecting others from potential infectious droplets that they may expel. Wearing a mask is not intended to protect you from others, so it is still important to observe and maintain 2m (6ft) of physical distance from others, even while wearing the mask.

### **Where will I obtain a mask?**

Masks will be given to you at the entrance screening station. Please remember to perform hand hygiene prior to obtaining and putting on your mask.

### **I already have a mask. Can I wear it instead?**

Family members or visitors who arrive with a personal mask may continue to wear that mask, dependent on their answers to the screening questions. Patients who fail symptom screening, will be required to wear a provided hospital approved mask.

### **Where am I required to wear the mask?**

Masks are to be worn at all times. This includes hallways, elevators, and patient rooms. Masks are to remain on until you exit the facility.

### **How do I store my mask safely to eat or drink?**

You may remove your mask to eat or drink. While eating or drinking, remember to practice physical distancing by maintaining 2m (6ft) from others. Once you are finished eating and drinking, you must put your mask on again.

To safely remove your mask, follow these steps:

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Carefully remove your mask
3. Place the mask outer side downwards on a clean surface (paper plate, napkin/paper towel, or clean paper bag). You can also fold the mask, so that the inner surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface

When ready to wear your mask again:

4. Perform hand hygiene
5. Put the mask on

Refer to the [“How to Wear a Mask” poster](#) to help you with putting it on, taking it off, and then putting your mask back on safely.