

**☑ COVID-19**

September 18, 2020

*This message is for all Bozeman Health employees from Incident Command.*

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**COVID-19 PPE Update: Surgical Mask Use at Bozeman Health****Here's what's happening...**

Bozeman Health has continuously been monitoring our personal protective equipment (PPE) and taken immediate steps to ensure our teams have the PPE they need to keep themselves and our patients safe. We know that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a shortage of PPE supplies and in particular, surgical masks. Bozeman Health recently obtained a supply contract with a vendor to meet our demand for supply of surgical masks. With this new supply, effective Tuesday, September 22, 2020, all Bozeman Health employees will wear disposable surgical masks while they are at work at a Bozeman Health care site.

**Here's why...**

Throughout our pandemic response, Bozeman Health has worked hard to remain in alignment with the CDC's recommendations for utilizing disposable surgical masks when available for all healthcare personnel (HCP).

**Here's what you need to do...**

**All Bozeman Health employees and volunteers will be given a disposable mask at the door daily, starting Tuesday, September 22, 2020.** Please continue to wear a personal mask upon entry to the building and during entrance screening.

Please note that for some of our employees at different locations, such as the Legacy building and the Ridge, please see your manager for daily masks.

All employees will wear their disposable mask throughout their shift under our current PPE [policy](#) and CDC guidance for extended use. Masks will be disposed of at the end of the day. Personal cloth masks will only be worn while entering and exiting Bozeman Health care sites.

Patient care staff will continue to wear their masks as extended use and replace according to pre-COVID-19 standards of care; for example, after caring for a patient in transmission-based precautions.

- *Procedural:* Mask will be changed for each sterile procedure.
- *Transmission-Based Precautions (Isolation):* Masks will be changed after encounters with person(s) under investigation or other infectious patients. Clinical staff are expected to change their mask as often as they change their gown.

Please continue to anticipate changes should we need to move back to a more conservative use of surgical masks. Bozeman Health continues to acknowledge and support the efficacy of the alternative PPE masks we tested and approved. Alternatives would again be recommended if we were to experience future shortages due to continued global and national supply challenges. This change only applies to surgical masks at this time. Other PPE usage should continue to follow current policy guidelines.

Patient and visitors will continue to wear personal face coverings, and if they do not have one they will be provided a patient/visitor face covering at the door.

All departments will be able to order both disposable surgical masks and patient/visitor masks via Lawson. Only order what your department needs for the week. Please work with Materials Management if you have additional questions.

- To order in Lawson:
  - 4300251 for disposable surgical masks.
  - 4365715 for patient/visitor masks.
    - Please be aware that these masks look similar and patient/visitor masks will be labeled as such coming out of Materials Management.

**Questions or comments?** Contact Infection Prevention at ext. 1718.