

To: All staff and physicians
From: Maura McKinnon, Chief Human Resource Officer
Date: March 5, 2021
Re: Use of Medical Grade Masks

Use of Medical Grade Masks

The NB Pandemic Task Force has updated the directive on the continuous use of face masks by healthcare workers and the use of face masks by patients and visitors while in health care facilities. This directive applies in all colour alert phases.

NB Pandemic Task force Memo #51 states that “patients and visitors be provided a new mask upon entry to the facility. A cloth facial covering will no longer be permitted in these facilities for patients, visitors and health care workers alike.”

Previously, employees and physicians were permitted to use community masks/cloth facial coverings while entering and exiting Horizon facilities provided that the mask was replaced with a medical grade face mask upon arrival at the workstation, unit, or department.

Effective March 8, 2021, all employees and physicians are required to take a medical grade face mask with them at the end of each shift to be worn upon entry to a Horizon facility for the start of their next shift.

Upon arrival at their workstation, unit, or department, employees and physicians must replace their mask with a new one to ensure the integrity of their mask has not been compromised and is safe for use.

Employees and Physicians are reminded to use designated staff entrances that are separate from access points used for patient, visitors and other individuals. In facilities with only shared entrances, employees and physicians will follow the separate pathway for staff and respect the two-meter physical distancing requirement. They must present their Horizon identification card and advise the screener that they are wearing a medical grade mask and do not require a new mask.

Employees and physicians must ensure they have a medical grade mask to wear into the facility at the start of each shift and upon each re-entry into the building during a shift.