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**From:** AHCA\_Notice <AHCANotice@ahca.myflorida.com>  
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**Subject:** Residential and Long Term Care Facilities to Implement Universal Use of Facial Masks



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## Residential and Long Term Care Facilities to Implement Universal Use of Facial Masks

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### **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY IN ALL RESIDENTIAL / LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES:**

- **ALL STAFF AND ANYONE ENTERING THE FACILITY MUST WEAR A FACIAL MASK AT ALL TIMES**
- **GLOVES WHEN PROVIDING DIRECT CARE TO A PATIENT OR RESIDENT**

**Effective immediately staff of residential and long term care facilities are to implement universal use of facial masks while in the facility.** All staff, essential healthcare visitors and anyone entering the facility are to don a mask upon the start of their shift or visit and only change it once it becomes moist. It is important to keep hands away from the mask and only touch the straps of the mask. **Gloves are to be worn when providing care to the resident.** Continue to perform hand hygiene prior to donning gloves, after removing gloves, and anytime there is contact with the resident environment.

**Staff in a room with a patient with respiratory symptoms of unknown cause or a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 should adhere to Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions with eye protection. This includes wearing gown, gloves, N95 mask (as fitted and**

**available – if not available, at least a facial mask), and eye protection such as face shields or goggles.**

In addition to securing more gowns, gloves, and masks, facilities will need to immediately order the appropriate eye protection (i.e. face shields) since many do not have this on hand. In the event you are unable to acquire the necessary PPE, please notify your local [emergency management agency](#).

## **GUIDANCE ON USE AND CONSERVATION OF Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Facilities will need to educate their staff on the [proper donning \(putting on\), doffing \(taking off\), and disposal of any PPE](#).

Information about the recommended duration of Transmission-Based Precautions is available in the [Interim Guidance for Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19](#)

## **Gloves – Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What type of glove is recommended to care for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients in healthcare settings?**
  - Nonsterile disposable patient examination gloves, which are used for routine patient care in healthcare settings, are appropriate for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  
- **Is double gloving necessary when caring for suspected or confirmed CoVID-19 patients in healthcare settings?**
  - [CDC Guidance](#) does not recommend double gloves when providing care to suspected or confirmed 2019-COVID patients.
  
- **Are extended length gloves necessary when caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients in healthcare settings?**
  - According to [CDC Guidance](#), extended length gloves are not necessary when providing care to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. Extended length gloves can be used, but CDC is not specifically recommending them at this time.
  
- **How do I put on (don) and take off (doff) my mask and gloves?**
  - Check to see if your facility has guidance on how to don and doff PPE. The procedure to don and doff should be tailored to the specific type of PPE that you have available at your facility.

- If your facility does not have specific guidance, [the CDC has recommended sequences for donning and doffing PPE.](#)
- It is important for HCP to perform hand hygiene after removing PPE. Hand hygiene should be performed by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water should be used before returning to alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

**Additional Resource**

[Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings.](#)

# Effective Immediately In All Residential / Long Term Care Facilities

**ALL STAFF AND ANYONE ENTERING THE FACILITY  
MUST WEAR A FACIAL MASK AT ALL TIMES**



**AND**

**GLOVES WHEN PROVIDING DIRECT CARE  
TO A PATIENT OR RESIDENT**

**HOWEVER**

Staff in a room with a patient with respiratory symptoms of unknown cause or a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 should adhere to **Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions with eye protection.**

This includes wearing gown, gloves, N95 mask (as fitted and available – if not available, at least a facial mask), and eye protection such as face shields or goggles.



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