

How to Care for a Procedure Mask



For direction on when to wear a procedure mask follow the direction of your manager and IPC-2-16- Management of Novel Respiratory Infections.

- For Point of Care interaction- determine if additional precautions (i.e. N95 mask) are required and perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment (IPC-1-18).
- If no additional precautions are required, proceed without removing your procedure mask.
- If additional precautions are required (i.e. N95 mask) or while on break doff the procedure mask and place it on a clean surface away from patient care area or in paper bag.
- Follow routine practices to don the required mask and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for patient care. Follow routine practices to doff PPE.

Steps for Donning a Procedure Mask

1. Perform hand hygiene;
2. Secure ear loops behind ears;
3. Mold metal piece to nose bridge;
4. Perform hand hygiene;
5. Keep hands away from face and do not touch the front of the mask.

Steps for Doffing a Procedure Mask and Storage

1. Perform hand hygiene;
2. Grasp ear loops and remove without touching the front of the mask (ties/ear loops/straps are considered 'clean' and may be touched with hands; the front of the mask is considered to be contaminated);
3. Bend forward to allow the mask to fall away from the face;
4. Place mask on a clean surface away from the patient care area with the inner mask portion facing upward to avoid contamination. Alternatively place in paper bag;
5. Perform hand hygiene.

Other considerations:

- Take extra care when removing a mask as this is when self-contamination may occur;
- Do not touch the front of the mask, and if so, immediately perform hand hygiene;
- Once a procedure mask becomes, damaged or soiled, it must be removed, disposed of and replaced. Otherwise use the mask for your shift;
- Careful and meticulous hand hygiene must occur after handling a used mask to avoid self-contamination.

References

CorHealth Ontario (March 25, 2020) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Available at [https://www.corhealthontario.ca/Personal-Protective-Equipment-\(PPE\)-use-during-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf](https://www.corhealthontario.ca/Personal-Protective-Equipment-(PPE)-use-during-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf)

Public Health Ontario (March 26, 2020). PPE Recommended Steps.

Available at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps.pdf?la=en>