**COVID-19 Safe use of Masks**

**THE MASK YOU NEED**

**DO:** REMEMBER TO WEAR THE CORRECT MASK FOR THE TASK:

- Wear Surgical or FFP2 mask: for droplet precautions, or when providing care within 2 metres of any patient, or when working within 2 metres of another healthcare worker for more than 15 minutes.
- Always wear a fit tested FFP2/FFP3 respirator mask for AGPs. **Fit check** your respirator mask every single time.

**WEARING THE MASK**

**DO:** Wear your mask so it comes all the way up, close to the bridge of your nose, and all the way down under your chin.

**DO:** Press the metal band so that it conforms to the bridge of your nose.

**DO:** Tighten the loops or ties so it’s snug around your face, without gaps. If there are strings, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit.

**DO NOT:**
- Wear the mask below your nose.
- Leave your chin exposed.
- Wear your mask loosely with gaps on the sides.
- Wear your mask so it covers just the tip of your nose.
- Push your mask under your chin to rest on your neck.

**ONCE YOU HAVE ADJUSTED YOUR MASK TO THE CORRECT POSITION, FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:**

- **ALWAYS** change your mask when you answer the telephone or you take a drink/break.
- **ALWAYS** wash your hands before and after handling a mask.
- **ALWAYS** change mask when leaving a cohort area or exiting a single patient isolation room.
- **ALWAYS** change mask if it is dirty, wet or damaged.
- **NEVER** fidget with your mask when it’s on.
- **NEVER** store your mask in your pocket.

**REMOVING THE MASK**

- Use the ties or ear loops to take the mask off.
- Do not touch the front of the mask when you take it off.

**DISPOSING OF THE MASK**

- Dispose of mask properly in a bin as ordinary household waste unless you were caring for a person with COVID-19. If you are disposing a mask after contact with a person who has a COVID-19 infection or suspected COVID-19, please follow these disposal instructions. Place the mask in a healthcare risk waste bin.

**IF HEALTHCARE RISK WASTE SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE:**

The mask, along with any other PPE used when treating a person with COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19, needs to be double-bagged and stored for 72hrs in a secure location, then put in the domestic waste.