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# Information for patients, visitors and carers Wearing A Surgical Mask



## General Information

## Wearing a surgical face mask while in our hospital

We are doing everything we can to protect our patients, visitors and staff against COVID-19. Maintaining your safety is top priority while planning and providing your care and treatment. You will now need to wear a surgical face mask at all times inside our hospital unless you are exempt.

## Why do I need to wear a face mask?

In line with Government guidance a surgical face mask must be worn while in our hospital to help us prevent the spread of COVID-19 amongst patients, visitors and staff.

## What type of face mask do I need to wear when in hospital?

It is important that you wear a surgical face mask (not any other type of face covering) at all times, so that we can be assured on the level of protection. This is for your safety and the safety of other patients, staff and visitors.

## Will a face mask be provided and where do I get it from?

Surgical face masks are provided and are available at:

- Entrances to the hospital
- Inpatient wards
- Outpatients

Please ask a member of staff if you cannot find one.

## How do I wear a face mask?

It is important that the mask is covering both your nose and mouth to prevent the spread of any infection.

## What if I cannot wear a face mask?

If you are exempt from wearing a surgical face mask while you are in hospital or it is agreed by the clinicians caring for you that wearing a mask may negatively affect your care, we can supply you with a visor to provide some protection to yourself, other patients and staff.

## Must a face mask be worn on a hospital corridor?

Yes, a surgical face mask must be worn in corridors at all times.

## What do I do when I need to eat or drink?

- You can remove your face mask to eat and drink, and dispose of it in a bin
- Wash or gel your hands before you eat and drink
- Put a new mask on after eating and drinking, always wash or gel your hands before putting on a new mask
- Ask a member of staff for a new face mask

## Can I take the face mask off when washing/sleeping/resting?

If you are located in a 'four-bedded bay' you must only remove your mask when eating, drinking or sleeping unless otherwise advised by a member of the clinical team responsible for your care. If you are located in a single room, you may remove your mask when alone. If anyone enters your room you must ensure you wear your mask for the protection of yourself and the person in the room with you.

We would like to thank all patients and visitors for their ongoing co-operation with the wearing of surgical face masks.