



शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्मसाधनम्  
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A.I.I.M.S.

# ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI

Dated: 07.04.2020

**Sub: Recommendation regarding use of masks (including N95 masks and others inter alia) for healthcare workers and support staff at AIIMS New Delhi during COVID-19 Pandemic.**

The Hospital Infection Control Committee has drafted guidelines regarding the use of masks (including N95 masks) for healthcare workers and support staff at AIIMS, New Delhi during COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, they may be used as a guiding document for distribution of masks to various patient care areas.

Submitted for your kind approval, please.



Chairperson  
Hospital Infection Control Core Committee

- Chairperson, Hospital Infection Control Committee

- Director, AIIMS



**Revision of the document-** “Appropriate use of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE triple layer masks, N 95 masks, gowns, goggles, gloves, kits etc) at AIIMS as part of COVID-19 preparedness” **regarding the guidelines for use of masks**

**\*RECOMMENDED MASK USE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND SUPPORT STAFF AT AIIMS NEW DELHI DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

AREA	PERSONNEL	N95 FFR	FLUID RESISTANT, 3-PLY SURGICAL MASK	LINEN MASK
Covid-19 screening area	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
	Patients	✓		
Covid-19 isolation ward	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
	Patients	✓		
Covid-19 ICU	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
	Patients	✓		
Covid-19 operating room	Healthcare workers in anaesthesia, surgical team	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
Any Hospital ward/facility	Healthcare workers performing high risk aerosol generating procedures (intubation, resuscitation, NG tube insertion, endoscopy, laparoscopy, Delivery room, etc)	✓		
Emergency room (Screening, New Emergency, Surgical emergency, Pediatrics) Including emergency Radiology services	Healthcare workers attending severely ill SARI patients	✓		
	Healthcare workers attending all other patients	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
Medicine, Pediatrics, Pulmonary Medicine Wards/ICUs	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
All ICUs	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff	✓		
ENT Ward	Healthcare workers	✓		
	Support staff		✓	
Operating room for non-COVID patients	Healthcare workers in anaesthesia, surgical team	✓		
	Support staff	✓		



AREA	PERSONNEL	N95 FFR	FLUID RESISTANT, 3-PLY SURGICAL MASK	LINEN MASK
Laboratory	Personnel handling respiratory samples from known/suspected Covid-19 patients	✓		
	Personnel handling other respiratory samples	✓		
	Personnel handling all other samples		✓	
	Support staff		✓	
All other inpatient areas (wards)	Healthcare workers		✓	
	Support staff		✓	
Pharmacy, billing, help desk, cafeteria	All staff		✓	
CSSD/Laundry	Handling laundry/equipment from Covid-19 areas/Emergency/Pulmonary Medicine/ENT	✓		
	Handling laundry/equipment from all other areas		✓	
Mortuary	Performing autopsy	✓		
	Handling dead body	✓		
Any	Patients with respiratory symptoms and their attendants		✓	
Any	Patients without respiratory symptoms and their attendants			✓
Non-patient care areas (administrative, maintenance etc)	All staff			✓

\*This document is a supplement to the "Appropriate use of various types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE triple layer masks, N 95 masks, gowns, goggles, gloves, kits etc) at AIIMS as part of COVID-19 preparedness" dated 20.3.2020 regarding the revised guidelines for use of Mask

FFR: filtering facepiece respirator

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Segregation of patients, healthcare workers and support staff is vital:
  - Covid-19 vs non-Covid-19 areas
  - Within non-Covid-19 areas: Patients with respiratory symptoms vs without respiratory symptoms
- Improper use of N95 FFRs/Triple layer surgical masks/linen masks can INCREASE risk of infection (see 'Mask Management' below).
- Use of mask alone is NOT SUFFICIENT to prevent infection. HAND HYGIENE, COUGH ETIQUETTE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING are essential.
- Proper mask management, including extended use/reuse of N95 FFRs, will require SIGNIFICANT TRAINING of all concerned staff, and is heavily dependent on compliance of all concerned staff, especially with widespread resistance to the idea of reuse/reprocessing of N95 FFRs.



## **MASK MANAGEMENT: GENERAL MEASURES**

- Perform **hand hygiene** before donning mask.
- DO NOT TOUCH OUTER SURFACE OF MASK. If inadvertently touched, perform **hand hygiene** immediately.
- When doffing/discarding mask, ONLY HANDLE THE STRAPS/TIES. Do not touch the mask or your face. Perform **hand Hygiene**.
- Discard used N95 FFR/surgical mask in red bin.

### **1. N95 FFR (filtering facepiece respirator) Management:**

- Ensure proper fit and seal on donning.
- Single N95 FFR can be used for 8 hours, except in case of high-risk aerosol generating procedure or visible contamination (single use).
- Extended use = use of single N95 FFR without doffing, for more than 8 hours, for multiple encounters with several patients.
- Reuse = use of single N95 FFR, with repeated doffing and donning, for multiple encounters with several patients.
- As far as possible, minimize repeated donning/doffing of same N95 FFR. **Minimize eating/drinking while wearing N95 FFR.**
- If N95 FFR is reused, doff by handling straps/ties only. Place in clean paper bag/cardboard box. Perform hand hygiene. When required, remove from bag/box and don, by handling straps/ties only. Perform hand hygiene.

### **2. Triple layer Surgical Mask Management:**

- The available triple layer surgical masks are fluid resistant.
- Ensure proper fit of mask and minimal gaps between mask and face on all sides.
- Do not eat/drink while wearing mask.
- Single surgical mask may be used for 6-8 hours ( if not damp or visibly contaminated) . Do not eat/drink while wearing mask.
- Once mask is removed, do not reuse. Discard immediately.

### **3. Linen Masks:**

- Ensure proper fit of mask and minimal gaps between mask and face on all sides.
- Wash thoroughly with soap and water at the end of each day and dry in sunlight.

## **REFERENCES:**

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services: *Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Guidelines on Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment*
2. WHO: *Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)*
3. NHS, UK: *Guidance – COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE)*.
4. CDC, Atlanta: *Summary List for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response.*
5. NIOSH and CDC, Atlanta: *Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare.*



6. Jefferson et al, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 4, 2020: *Physical Interventions to Interrupt or Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Viruses (Review)*
7. Feng et al, Lancet Respiratory Medicine, March 2020: *Rational Use of Face Masks in the COVID-19 Pandemic.*
8. Offeddu et al, Clinical Infectious Diseases, August 2017: *Effectiveness of Masks and Respirators Against Respiratory Infections in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.*

HICC, AIIMS, New Delhidated 6.4.2020