Isolation Masks

General Reminders

• Isolation mask use is required in all patient care areas.
• Avoid touching isolation mask. If you need to touch to adjust for comfort perform hand hygiene immediately after touching.
• Do not pull mask down around neck or place on top of head at any point in time.

Application (Donning)
1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Avoid touching surface of isolation mask.
3. Before use inspect mask for damage. If stretched out, straps with lack of tension, nosepiece damage, etc., do not apply mask.
4. Apply mask with exterior side facing out.
5. Mold the nosepiece to the shape of your nose by pushing inward.
6. When wearing mask, both nose and mouth should be covered.

Extended Use of Isolation/Surgical Mask:

• Continue wearing the same isolation mask between patients.
• Remove before leaving the floor/ward or when consecutive patient care activities have been completed.

Dispose Of Mask When:

• Visibly soiled
• Moist/Wet
• Visibly damaged
• Becomes hard to breathe through

Removal (Doffing):
1. After use, remove per standard doffing sequence. (Mask should be removed last.)
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. If mask is not visibly soiled, saturated, or damaged place on a paper towel exterior side down.
4. Gently fold paper towel with mask and place in pre-labeled bag for reuse (no plastic bags).
5. Perform hand hygiene.