

## Extended Use of Facemasks

Extended use of facemasks is the practice of wearing the same facemask for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing the facemask between patient encounters.

### DO:

- ✓ Discard facemask if soiled, damaged, or breathing becomes difficult
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene immediately after removal
- ✓ Leave the patient care area to remove the facemask

### DON'T:

- x Touch your face or the outside of the facemask. Perform hand hygiene immediately if this occurs
- x Use a facemask that has been damaged or torn in any way

## Re-Use of Facemasks

Limited re-use of facemasks is the practice of using the same facemask by one healthcare worker for multiple encounters with different patients.

**\*Extended use of masks is always preferred over re-use.**

### DO:

- ✓ Discard facemask if soiled, damaged, or breathing becomes difficult
- ✓ Carefully fold the facemask so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage.
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene immediately after removal
- ✓ Store in a clean, sealable paper bag or other breathable container

### DON'T:

- x Share your facemask with anyone else
- x Use a facemask that has been damaged or torn in any way

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