

March 7, 2022

Updated Masking Guidelines and Addendum

Beginning today, it is no longer mandatory to wear a respirator on the treatment floor.

NKC-provided medical grade masks, also known as surgical masks, are still required in patient care areas and a fit tested N95 will still be required when taking care of COVID positive patients and patients under investigation.

Please see below for mask and respirator details:

- NKC provided medical grade masks, also known as surgical masks, are required in patient care areas.
- Use a fit-tested N95 respirator when working with a COVID positive patient or patient under investigation. Please see video on how to perform a just in time seal check each time you don an N95: [Performing a Seal Check When Donning an N95 Mask](#).
- N95 masks can be worn continuously throughout your shift. Replace your mask with a new N95 after one (1) shift or if it becomes wet or soiled.
- During your day or shift, store your N95 in a brown paper bag when you take it off to eat or drink.
- You can continue to wear your own respirator (KN95s or KF94s) and we will continue to supply non fit tested KN95 type respirators for both staff and patients who wish to continue wearing them.

This change in our respiratory protection protocol is in response to the sustained decrease in case numbers of COVID-19 in our region and across the nation.

Respiratory protection protocols may change due to changes in COVID-19 case numbers and with updated CDC and CMS guidance.

Please contact employeehealth@nwkidney.org with questions.