

## Patient advice sheet

### The importance of wearing a surgical mask while in hospital

We are doing everything we can to protect you, visitors and our staff from catching COVID-19. We would ask you, and your visitors, to wear a surgical face mask at all times when inside our hospital unless medically exempt.

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

To prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect you, your visitors, our staff and volunteers.

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

A surgical face mask not a face covering.

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

We will provide face masks if you don't have your own supply – just ask a member of staff.

#### How do I wear a face mask?

It is important the mask covers both your nose and mouth to give you maximum protection.

#### What if I cannot wear a face mask?

If you are exempt from wearing a surgical face mask, 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 all parts of the hospital, at all times, unless you are in a single room on your own or you are eating or drinking, showering or sleeping.

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

- You may remove your face mask to eat and drink and dispose of it in a bin
- Wash or sanitise your hands before you eat and drink
- Put a new mask on after eating and drinking – ask a member of staff if you don't have one
- Always wash or sanitise your hands before putting on a new mask

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

If you are in a 'bay with other people, you must only remove your mask when eating, drinking or sleeping. We would ask you to wear a mask at all other times unless advised not to by one of our clinicians.

#### Do my visitors need to wear a face mask?

Yes, unless they are medically exempt.

#### Do I still have to wear a face mask if I'm in a room on my own?

Not if you are on your own, however, if anyone enters your room please put on your face mask to protect both yourself and the person who is 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.**