Extended Mask Use Policy (COVID-19 Response)

POLICY:

The safety of every SCCA patient and employee is our top priority. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rapidly evolve and new information becomes available, we have carefully considered the optimal strategies to ensure the safety of our patients and employees, anticipating short and long-term needs. We have also heard your concerns and want our employees to feel safe and confident as they continue to respond to this pandemic.

Given increasing evidence of widespread transmission of COVID-19 and to mitigate the use of masks overall, beginning Monday, April 6, 2020, it is recommended that all staff in community and SLU clinic locations wear a surgical mask continuously, throughout their entire shift, while on the premises for the safety of our patients and staff. This mask will be provided by SCCA.

SCCA employees who do not work in clinic locations are permitted to wear facial protection they have procured outside of SCCA including cloth masks. Surgical masks should not be used outside of clinic locations.

Implementation of extended use masking is a departure from standard approaches to infection prevention. This change is made based on the continued expansion of the local COVID-19 epidemic and is contingent on our ability to maintain adequate PPE supplies. Please note that the ability to receive additional supplies of masks is not assured and all staff are entrusted with thoughtful and judicious use of their masks. This mask policy, which includes surgical and procedural masks (and not N95 respirators), will serve to:

- Protect our patients and other staff members should the health care worker be infected and is experiencing no or very mild symptoms which may be hard to recognize or develop symptoms at work (a mask may decrease the risk of spreading infection)

This practice requires your participation regarding:

- Strict adherence to proper extended use/reuse of masks
- Strict adherence to hand hygiene
- Proper mask use and hygiene – including:
  - Wearing the mask as directed to cover the mouth and nose
  - Avoiding touching the mask and your face
• Staff members who are already on site should secure a face mask (surgical or procedural mask) and wear it continuously until they leave the clinic
• Before putting on the mask, be sure to perform hand hygiene, and remember not to touch your face after putting the mask in place. The mask should cover your nose and mouth
• Please remember that conservation of personal protective equipment (PPE) supply is essential, so take and use only one mask per shift – unless the mask becomes visibly soiled or damaged
• Strict adherence to COVID-19 Stay at Home – Return to Work Guidelines: Employees with any symptoms of a respiratory illness will not be allowed to work on the premises

REFERENCE:
Respiratory Virus Management Plan (COVID-19 Response)

Attachments
No Attachments

Approval Signatures

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<tr>
<th>Approver</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracy Wong: Dir Value &amp; Pt Exp</td>
<td>4/4/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rusty Thurman: Fire, Safety &amp; Emerg Prep Mgr</td>
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<td>Rachel Lane: Healthcare Accred. Affairs Mgr</td>
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Applicability

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Outpatient Policies