April 23, 2020

Universal Source Control

Continued community transmission has increased the number of individuals potentially exposed to and infectious with SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). Fever and symptom screening have proven to be relatively ineffective in identifying all infected individuals. Symptom screening also will not identify individuals who are infected but otherwise asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic; additional interventions are needed to limit the unrecognized introduction of COVID-19 into healthcare settings by these individuals.

As part of aggressive source control measures, MercyOne is encouraging that every patient or visitor entering a MercyOne facility will wear a cloth face covering while in the building, regardless of symptoms.

- Patients and visitors should, ideally, be wearing their own cloth face covering upon arrival to the facility/clinic. If not, they should be offered a facemask or cloth face covering as supplies allow, which should be worn while they are in the facility/clinic (if tolerated).
- They should also be instructed that if they must touch or adjust their cloth face covering they should perform hand hygiene immediately before and after.
- Facemasks and cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Screening for symptoms and appropriate triage, evaluation, and isolation of individuals who report symptoms should still occur.
- Visitors accompanying patients to any appointment should be discouraged for the safety of other patients/colleagues.
  - There is an exception for guardians of vulnerable adults/pediatrics.
  - Guests/visitors may not wait in lobbies and must wait in vehicles or leave and return later.
  - Guests must wear their own masks or they will not be permitted to enter the facility.
  - Guests must pass door screening protocols.

Care locations within communities experiencing high-levels of COVID-19 patients or PUIs may require the use of cloth masks for visitors at the discretion of their senior leadership team and/or Incident Commander.

Reference: