



PPE Committee Update Regarding Envo® Masks

Your safety is our top priority. The PPE committee has worked tirelessly to develop guidance that is regularly updated to keep health care workers safe during the pandemic. Thank you for all the work you have done to keep each other safe.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, fourteen health care workers among us have acquired infection from patients and we continue to evaluate each instance to improve our processes. Overall, our PPE strategies are working to keep us all safe.

We'd like to provide an update to UNM and UNMH colleagues who have been using your own envo® masks. **We are asking everyone while working at UNMH to stop using these masks for the following reasons:**

- UNMH oversees the safety of all PPE and wants to ensure your safety. These masks have no standardized processes developed at UNMH including:
 - Fit testing
 - Training on proper use
 - Cleaning
 - Changing or cycling of filters
- We are all in this boat together! A core PPE Committee principle is to ensure the hospital can supply needed PPE:
 - Equity: not everyone who works in healthcare can afford these masks and this leads to inequities.
 - Our current strategies are working!
 - No use of personal masks: we recently updated guidance to allow for you to bring eyewear that meets your needs and meets specifications. Criteria for eyewear is less stringent than what is required for masks.

Next Steps: We understand the interest in envo® masks. The PPE Committee will be reviewing the safety, acquisition and feasibility of using these masks over the next few weeks. Many of the issues mentioned above are solvable. However, Materials Management will assess the supply chain for these masks since acquiring this particular mask has been challenging during the pandemic. We will provide an update about these masks in mid-January 2021.

In the meantime, we want to find the best mask for you. We will work with you and BATCAVE to try alternative masks. Please contact the BATCAVE at 272-0494 and they will work with you to find the best respirator for your work.

Thank you for caring for our patients and for your dedication during these unrivaled times.