



PPE Committee Updates
3.28.22

Guiding principles of the PPE committee:

- Keep health care personnel and patients as safe as possible
- Be good stewards of our PPE through thoughtful use of resources.
- Evolve our behaviors to both increase safety and reduce anxiety
- Consolidate care (people/locations) to increase safety and reduce PPE use

With lower community rates of COVID-19 infections and relaxation of masking requirements outside of healthcare settings, the PPE Committee recommends the following for routine practice in clinical and non-clinical settings at UNMH:

- Masks required for staff and providers (scenario-based):
 - N95 masks or equivalent required when caring for patients with active COVID-19 infection (i.e., suspected or confirmed).
 - N95 mask or equivalent required during procedures with continuous or high-risk aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs).
 - Procedural or N95 masks should be used during routine patient care or when at UNM Hospital facilities.
- Eye protection:
 - Consider use during clinical care to reduce risk for COVID-19 infection.

Additionally, some modification may be made to in-person meetings and classroom education at UNMH with lower rates of community spread. The PPE Committee recommends the following:

- Mask wearing is still required in all indoor settings at UNMH facilities. Meetings, other gatherings, and classroom-based educational activities may be modified to include in-person activities as long as these principles are upheld.
- Social Distancing in all settings is still recommended when space allows. Please schedule meetings and activities around this guideline. Group size will be dictated by the size of the physical space for the gathering to allow for social distancing.
- When indoors, individuals should still not congregate without masks.
- Eating indoors in groups is strongly discouraged since eating/drinking cannot occur without mask removal. Eating outdoors is preferred if possible.
- Education in the clinical environment (rotations, internships, clinical skills, etc.) will continue, with the expected use of masks (no cloth masks) as described above. Eye protection is not mandated at this time.

Please note: these guidelines are current as of the date on this document and subject to change by the PPE Committee based on evolving community COVID-19 prevalence.

Key changes in this document from prior guidance:

- This is a change from “mandatory” to “consider” eye protection
- N95 or procedural masks for non-COVID-19 patient care are still required for all patient care activities at UNMH. This is a change from strongly recommending only N95s for all patient care activities in the previous version.