

Safe Work Practice

SWP # 2

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July 8, 2020 Revision: 3

Use of Face Masks

Hazards Identified	Exposure to Infectious Diseases (COVID19)
Hazard-Specific Personal Protective Equipment	Variety of respiratory masks
Hazard-Specific Training	Safe work practice
Safe Work Practice	
<p><i>The following safe work practice is generic, and may not apply to all forms of face masks being used during times of infectious diseases. This SWP has been created for employees who wish to use a non-medical mask. This information has been prepared by the Nurse Manager, SMU Health Services. The owner's manual/operating guidelines, etc., for different types of masks must be reviewed and followed for the specific mask you may be using. All other directives identified by the NS Department of Health and Wellness, such as social distancing, must be followed. Masks must be worn in common areas, such as hallways and bathrooms.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DO check to make sure mask and face protection has no defects, such as tear or torn strap or ear loop.• DO ensure mask covers your mouth & nose.• DO remove mask correctly- pull away from face in downward motion.• DO dispose of mask into waste receptacle by touching only ear loops or ties. (Please note that cloth masks are re-usable. They should be laundered after each shift.)• DO perform hand hygiene before and after removing mask & face protection.• DON'T wear if wet or soiled, put on a new mask.• DON'T allow mask to hang or dangle around your neck.• DON'T touch the front of the mask or face protection when wearing or during removal. <p>The last point is crucial. As soon as someone touches their mask and hasn't cleaned their hands beforehand they have defeated the purpose of the mask as it is now contaminated. For more information on the use of masks, and how to put them on and off correctly, please see the following link: https://smu.ca/about/ohs-how-to-use-a-mask.html</p>	
Regulations, Standards and References	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/