



October 25, 2020

Re: Appropriate Use of PPE

The Covid-19 pandemic presents many challenges, both in the clinical and academic environment. Our priority is to ensure the health and safety of patients, health care workers, and the community at large.

We have been made aware of several recent lapses in use of appropriate precautions during clinical encounters with patients requiring Contact & Droplet precautions. Some of these incidents involved resident physicians. Scenarios include failure to don PPE prior to engaging with the patient, inappropriate masking, errors in doffing PPE, and potential contamination of self and other members of the health care team.

The importance of appropriate use of PPE cannot be overemphasized, particularly as efforts continue to contain outbreaks at the FMC site. Covid exposure impacts the personal and professional lives of individual physicians, and results in disruptions to patient care. Recent events have also caused distress for allied health care professionals who witnessed these protocol breaches.

A reminder of the following principles:

- Continuous masking in AHS facilities is a requirement, including during breaks and teaching sessions. Please don't share foods, drinks, condiments, or Halloween candy
- Please do not eat or take sips of beverages while in clinic or on the wards
- Please regularly clean high-touch surfaces including phones, keyboards, door handles, etc.
- Ensure proper donning and doffing of PPE as required

Resources are available to provide instruction for PPE. Information regarding hand hygiene, donning/doffing, and an FAQ can be found using the following AHS links.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-flu-handwash-how-to.pdf>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/Infofor/hp/if-hp-ipc-donning-ppe-poster.pdf>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/Infofor/hp/if-hp-ipc-doffing-ppe-poster.pdf>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-ppe-faq.pdf>

A Calgary-developed COVID app is available [here](#) with practical and timely advice related to PPE use and COVID management in general.

A PPE Sim was made available to all incoming trainees at the start of the 2020 academic year. Programs wanting to organize additional Sim sessions for residents are advised to contact PGME.

The health and well-being of patients, trainees and allied health professionals is of utmost importance. We are writing to request your engagement and cooperation to ensure a safe learning and work environment

Lisa Welikovich MD FRCP
Associate Dean, PGME
Cumming School of Medicine

Peter Jamieson, MD CCFP FCFP
Clinical Professor, University of Calgary
Medical Director, Foothills Medical Centre &
Associate Zone Medical Director, Calgary Zone