

Internal talking points about universal masking

- The care and safety of our patients and people is our highest priority.
- We support universal masking, which means that every team member working in one of our care facilities will wear a mask appropriate to their potential exposure of COVID-19.
 - Employees working in administrative office buildings or non-care settings will not wear masks as part of our universal masking effort.
 - Our guidance around the use of other PPE, which is consistent with CDC guidance, should still be followed.
 - Employees in non-patient care areas may opt to wear their own cloth masks.
- We are implementing universal masking at all of our care facilities, although it will not happen all at once.
 - Some of our divisions are experiencing much more severe COVID-19 activity than others.
- The speed of universal masking implementation is dependent on the availability of appropriate masks and may change in the future.
 - Availability of and need for appropriate masks differs in each division.
- We have been distributing and will continue to distribute our supplies to those areas of the country hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.
 - This is one of the many benefits of being a large, dynamic and responsive health ministry.
- We have redoubled our efforts to secure additional supplies.
 - We have established partnership with MedLine to refurbish and reuse masks.
 - We are working with states to gain access to additional emergency supplies, including masks.
- As we move to universal masking, it is imperative that all team members be even more vigilant about caring for their protective equipment and extending its use.
- We continue to anticipate a surge in COVID-19 patients in many of our divisions. To be best prepared for those future circumstances, we must be smart today about our use of supplies and PPE.
- Divisions implementing universal masking will follow the same guidance and implementation processes; divisions already practicing universal masking will need to adjust their processes to follow the ministry's universal masking guidance.
- If you have a question about universal masking or which mask should be used in any circumstance, please speak with your supervisor first.