

Why use a surgical facemask?



- Surgical face masks are used every day in the NHS, mostly by staff working in operating theatres to help prevent the spread of infection into open wounds or staff working in infectious diseases units
- The current guidance from Public Health England (PHE) is for healthcare workers who are looking after patients with suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 are to wear masks. If this guidance changes, our processes will be reviewed and updated as required
- In the donation environment staff will be in close contact with a number of donors during their shift without being able to carry out social distancing. We expect, as in normal circumstances, that these donors will be healthy, however, to address staff concerns a supply of surgical facemasks will be made available for staff to wear
- Their use may reduce the risk of COVID-19 but only if used correctly and if you are faced with a **symptomatic** person
- The most effective way to prevent transmission from **asymptomatic** people is:
 - Maintain social distancing where possible
 - Effective and visible hand hygiene using soap and water or hand sanitiser as usual
 - Effective, regular and visible cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
 - Avoid touching the face, particularly mouth, nose and eyes. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately

How to put on a surgical facemask



- Take the mask out of the box and check for tears or holes
- Check you have the mask the right way: Bendable strip at the top

White side in, coloured side out

- Cover the mouth and nose with the mask



- Secure round the ears/tie at the back of the head



- fit the bendable strip over the bridge of the nose so there are no gaps between the face and the mask, ensure the mask covers the nose, mouth and goes under then chin

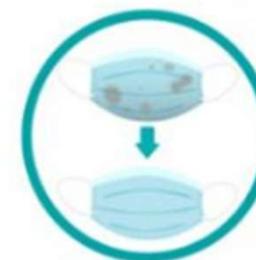
How to wear a surgical facemask



- Whilst wearing the mask, do not touch it, if you do please cleanse your hands



- Replace the mask if it becomes damp or soiled



- A mask will last for a session if it does not get wet, damp or soiled

How to take off and dispose of a surgical facemask



- To remove the face mask, do not touch the front of the mask, use only the straps



- If your mask has ties, remove the lower tie first so the mask does not flip over and contaminate clothing
- Discard immediately into a clinical waste bin
- Wash or cleanse your hands



How to put on, use, take off and dispose of a surgical facemask



If you wish to see this process being demonstrated please visit this address: (2 minute WHO YouTube video)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4olt47pr_o