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**Screening Stations Fact Sheet**

**Mask use**

To keep our staff, visitors and patients safe at our healthcare facilities, WSLHD is recommending extra precautions regarding mask-use from Monday 10 August.

This follows escalation by NSW Health to an Amber Alert – Moderate Transmission, increasing COVID-19 infections in our district and advice from our local infectious disease experts.

**Staff**

To protect our staff working at our healthcare facilities, all staff will be requested to wear masks when in **public places as well as patient areas in our facilities**.

**Can staff wear cloth masks?**

Only masks issued by WSLHD should be worn by staff while in the facility, including transiting through corridors.

**What if a staff member refuses to wear a mask on entry?**

If the staff member is symptomatic ask them to attend the staff clinic in accordance with the usual procedures. Provide the staff member with a mask.

If the staff member has no respiratory symptoms they should be allowed to enter the facility and should be asked to go directly to their department.

Please take their Staff Link number and name and their manager’s name. Pass this information to security who will contact the staff member’s manager.

**Visitors**

Visitors are required to wear a mask if they are coming into a health facility for any reason.

**Can visitors wear cloth masks?**

If the visitor is able to wear the cloth mask without touching it, they should continue to wear it. Reminders regarding hand hygiene, physical distancing, touching their mask and cough etiquette/respiratory hygiene are to be provided.

If the visitor has acute respiratory symptoms or fever they need to defer their visit and have COVID-19 testing. Alternatively the visitor can change their mask to a hospital mask and attend the Covid-19/Flu Clinic.

**What should be done if a visitor declines to wear a mask?**

The visitor should be informed of the current Amber Alert recommendations and the risk to the patient and others in the facility they are visiting, as well as the risks to themselves.

If they continue to decline to wear a mask, please contact security.

Security will then escort them to area of the hospital they are visiting.

A risk assessment will be then be performed by the Unit Manager or staff member in charge. The visitor may be asked to leave the health facility if it is determined that there will be a COVID-19 risk for the patient/s and/or staff.

**What support is available for staff?**

If you have any questions about mask use or any other COVID-19 topics please contact the staff assist hotline on 1800 344 733.

The Workplace Wellbeing team is also available to provide support. Visit the COVID-19 staff page for more information: <https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/staff-wellbeing-during-covid-19/staff-wellbeing-during-covid19>

Staff can also access our Employee Assistance Program on 1800 81 87 28

**Further information regarding mask use for staff can be viewed here:** [**https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-19-update/healthcare-worker-mask-use-further-information**](https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-19-update/healthcare-worker-mask-use-further-information)