Ansell
Protects™
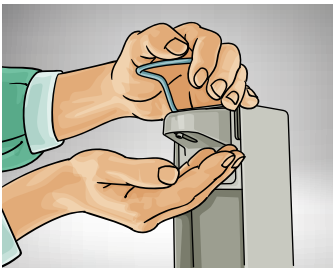
COVID-19: DO'S & DON'TS WHEN USING MEDICAL MASKS
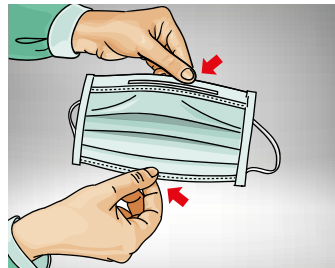
A review of the interim guidance provided by public health authorities such as World Health Organization (WHO),[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)[2] and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)[3] on the do's and don'ts when using medical masks (also known as surgical and procedural masks) in healthcare settings during this COVID-19 pandemic indicate similar practices apply.

Proper use is key to ensure its effectiveness and safety. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use and your facility policy and procedures regarding respiratory protection.

DO'S

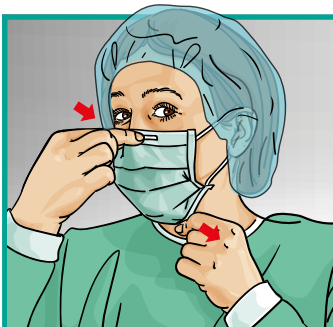Perform **hand hygiene** before donning.

Open mask to **expand pleats or folds**, check for defects and orient the mask properly. Ensure colored side is facing outward and that the metallic nose strip is at the top.

Masks with ear loops: Hold the mask by the loops. Place a loop around each ear. Make sure your mouth, nose and chin are covered.

Masks with ear ties: Bring the top strings over the crown of your head and tie with a bow. Tie the bottom strings at the nape of your neck. Make sure your mouth, nose and chin are covered.

Mold or pinch the top edge to the shape of your nose. Secure the mask under your chin.

Ensure a snug fit by pressing the mask against your cheek **to minimize any gap between your face and the mask.** Make sure the mask is well positioned and centered on your face.
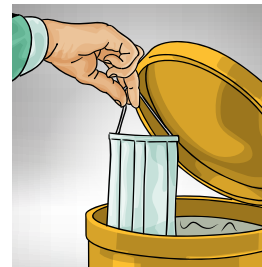
Discard and replace a mask as soon as it becomes contaminated with respiratory or nasal secretions, blood or other bodily fluids.
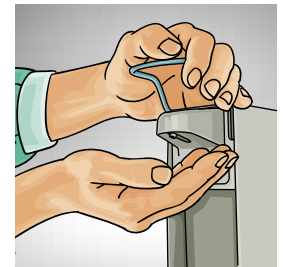
Mask with ear loops: Hold both the loops and gently lift and remove mask away from your face.

Masks with ear ties: First untie the bottom bow followed by the top bow. Pull the mask away from your face as the ties are loosened.

Discard the used mask in a **sealed trash receptacle** in accordance with routine disposal procedures.

Perform **hand hygiene immediately** after disposal.

Ansell
Protects™

COVID-19: DO'S & DON'TS WHEN USING MEDICAL MASKS
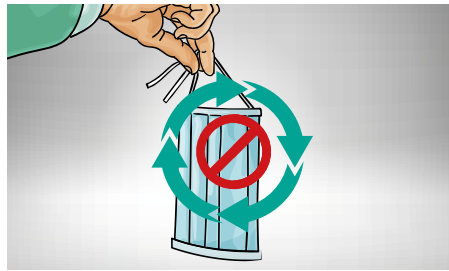
DON'TS

Do not don without practicing hand hygiene.

Do not touch or reposition the mask anytime during patient care. If displaced, dispose immediately and re-don.

Do not remove mask by pulling from the front to prevent self-contamination.

Do not re-use single-use masks.

Remember

- Always ensure compliance with your local public health authorities regulations surrounding usage and selection guidance of personal protective equipment (PPE) to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Follow recommended mask conservation guidelines to preserve PPE for front line healthcare workers and to ensure appropriate supply based on risk level is available.

- General advice is that a medical mask be worn in the case of a shortage of respirators.

DID YOU KNOW?

PPE must be removed slowly and deliberately in a sequence that prevents self-contamination: gloves, hand hygiene, gown, eye protection, hand hygiene, medical mask or facial filtering respirator, hand hygiene.

Whether or not PPE is used, maximum compliance with hand hygiene and other infection protection control measures are critical to prevent human-to-human transmission.

WHO, CDC and ECDC advise that cloth face coverings are NOT PPE and should not be worn for the care of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients or any other situations where a respirator or medical mask is warranted.

www.ansell.com