

## Instructions for Medical/Surgical Mask Use and Reuse

### To Doff Facemask with Intent to Reuse

1. **Perform hand hygiene**
2. **Remove mask:**
  - a. Remove medical mask by holding the ear loops. The front is contaminated, so remove slowly and carefully. Do not let loops touch your face.
  - b. Remove surgical mask by untying lower ties FIRST. Untie upper ties last. The front is contaminated, so remove slowly and carefully. Ensure ties do not fall into clean interior side of mask.
3. After removing facemask, **visually inspect for contamination**, distortion in shape/form. If soiled, torn, or saturated the mask should be discarded.
4. If the facemask is NOT visibly soiled, torn, or saturated, carefully fold so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container.
5. **Perform hand hygiene**

### To Re-Don Mask

1. **Perform hand hygiene and don gloves**
2. Grasp used mask:
  - a. Pinch procedure mask at the ear loops or
  - b. Grasp upper ties on surgical mask
3. Place over face:
  - a. For medical mask: Secure ear loops behind the ears. Secure mask.
  - b. For surgical mask: Secure upper ties first, behind head. End by securing lower ties behind head.
4. **Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene**

A disposable facemask can be worn throughout your shift if not visibly soiled, torn or saturated, and NOT touched while delivering patient care.

**Please see next page for donning/doffing steps when only gown & gloves are being replaced.**

Donning Steps When Replacing Gown & Gloves ONLY (Extending use of N95 Respirators/Facemasks and Eye Protection):

- **Before entering the patient room:**
- Identify and gather the gown and gloves to don
- **Perform hand hygiene**
- **Put on gown.** Ensure that the gown fits. Tie all of the ties on the gown. Be careful to avoid touching face and eye protection while putting on gown.
- **Put on gloves.** Gloves should cover the cuff (wrist) of gown.
- **Enter patient room**

Doffing Steps When Only Gown and Gloves are Being Removed:

- **Before exiting the patient room:**
- **Remove gloves.** Ensure glove removal does not cause additional contamination. Gloves can be removed using a more than one technique, e.g., glove-in-glove, and duckbill.
- **Remove gown.** Do not touch the outer surface of the gown. While touching the closures or inside surface of the gown, slowly pull arms out of sleeves. Roll up gown outwards, drop in trash.
- **Perform hand hygiene**
- **Exit patient room**

**Visual Materials:**

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

**Video:**

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

**Resources:**

1. Nebraska Medicine:  
<https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19/surgical-mask-policy-and-faq-nebraska-med.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>