



March 26th, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Our country and our world are in difficult and unprecedented times during this COVID-19 pandemic. The effects of this pandemic are felt in all aspects of our lives, from shortages of necessary supplies in our grocery stores to drastic effects in our daily lives, including our private and professional lives. While we are fortunate to be associated with a well-positioned, high-quality healthcare system, Hamilton Medical Center is not insulated from the challenges of today. One of our biggest challenges today is the appropriate usage of our personal protective equipment (PPE).

The hospital currently follows CDC guidelines regarding the appropriate use of PPEs. Hospital staff on all levels are well educated on the appropriate use of PPEs. Despite this education, we continue to see inappropriate PPE utilization that threatens our already limited supply. **The inappropriate use of PPEs by providers is particularly concerning not only because it diminishes our supplies, but because it creates division within the hospital staff as they feel the Medical Staff providers are not held to the same standard as hospital employees.**

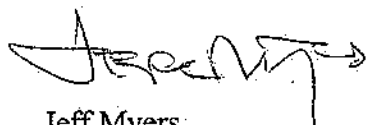
The Leadership Council met by teleconference on March 25th, 2020 and set forth the following expectations:

1. All members of the Medical Staff are expected to follow the recommendations for PPE utilization set forth by Hamilton Medical Center. Any provider not following these guidelines will be asked to immediately comply. Any refusal will prompt immediate removal from the facility. Any member of the Medical Staff that refuses to follow HMC recommendations while in any of our facilities will be referred for disciplinary action outlined in the HMC Medical Staff Professionalism Policy.
2. No outside PPE will be allowed into Hamilton Medical Center. It is not possible to properly vet the origin, effectiveness, or proper cleanliness of PPE that originates from outside of our institution. Use of outside PPEs also creates concern that the Medical Staff is held to a different standard than our employees.

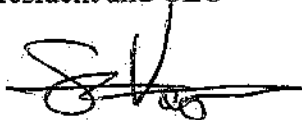
If any member of the Medical Staff does not feel that they are able to comply with these expectations, please contact the Medical Staff office or one of the members of the Leadership Council, and we will assist in any way possible in arranging alternate care for your hospitalized patients during these trying times.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate healthcare during this ever-changing situation. We understand that everyone has the best interest of their patients, themselves, and their families in mind when making decisions regarding PPEs. Please understand that we are following CDC guidelines for best practices to protect you, your families, our staff, and our patients. If there are changes in these guidelines moving forward, you will be notified accordingly.

Sincerely,



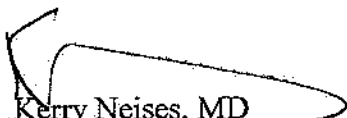
Jeff Myers
President and CEO



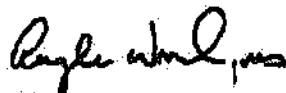
Stanford Voegele, MD
President, Medical Staff



Michael Hartley, MD
Immediate Past President, Medical Staff



Kerry Neises, MD
Chair, PPEC



Angela Wood, MD
President-Elect, Medical Staff



Recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment INPATIENT with Respiratory Illness*

	Face Mask (surgical or ear-loop mask)	N95 (fit-tested respirator)	Protective Eyewear (goggles or face shield)	Gown & Gloves
If you are a Patient or Visitor who is asymptomatic, no risk factors	No personal protective equipment precautions required. Follow CDC guidelines, limit social interactions, practice hand hygiene. Follow visitation guidelines to limit exposure.			
If you are a Patient with respiratory symptoms <u>OR</u> confirmed or pending test results for respiratory virus or COVID-19	Wear Face Mask while being transported Mask not required while in hospital room			
Caregivers Performing Screening at Hospital or Department Point of Entry	Wear Face Mask		Wear Protective Eyewear	
For Clinical Caregivers , follow situation specific guidelines:				
Clinical Caregivers Transporting Patients	Patient wears Mask. Mask not required for clinical caregiver			
Clinical Caregivers Actively Seeing Patients who have any signs or symptoms of any respiratory illness	Wear Face Mask		Wear Protective Eyewear	Wear Gown & Gloves
Collection of all Respiratory Viral Specimens for Testing (including COVID) *caregivers obtaining nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swab	N-95 or higher-level respirator Okay to wear facemask if a respirator is not available (per CDC)		Wear Protective Eyewear	Wear Gown & Gloves
Performing Procedures *aerosolized risk: Bronchoscopy, nebulization, NIPPV, intubation/extubation, TEE, high flow O2		Wear N95	Wear Protective Eyewear	Wear Gown & Gloves
Caregivers Caring for Patient with Confirmed COVID-19 Case		Wear N95	Wear Protective Eyewear	Wear Gown & Gloves