

Faculty of Health Guideline for Mask Use re-use of Procedural/Surgical Grade Masks

The following guideline for Faculty of Health is based on current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and Public Health England (PHE). NB. This is procedural masks and not about N95's that are used in a clinical setting.

Current Best Practice for Procedural/Surgical Grade Masks

- Masks may be worn for up to 4 hours, or for a maximum time as specified by the manufacturer.
- Masks that are soiled, wet, or damaged must be discarded.
- Masks should be disposed at the end of the workday.
- Proper hand washing is required after touching the mask to remove it.

Use of procedural /surgical Masks in clinical skills labs, simulations and OSCE's

- A new procedural/surgical mask is required for use in skills labs (one per day)
- Masks may be worn for up to 4 hours per day.
- Masks must be examined before they are re-used within a 4 hour period.
- Masks that are soiled, wet, or damaged must be discarded.
- Masks are to be donned using proper hand washing procedures
- A personal mask must be worn when entering the building. Students and faculty are responsible for cleaning personal masks.
- A procedural/surgical mask must be donned for use in clinical labs and simulations and OSCE's – proper hand washing is required when touching removing a mask and donning a new one.
- Students must leave the building with a mask on (students can remove and discard the clinical skills lab mask and don personal masks prior to leaving the building – proper hand washing required)

Labs will have a supply of masks for those that are soiled, wet, or damaged and must be discarded during labs. Proper handwashing after removal of the mask is mandatory.

At this time mask reuse is not recommended as indicated from EHS at Dalhousie University

For references and additional information on the topic can be found from the following national/international bodies:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>
- PHE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/managing-shortages-in-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- WHO: [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/rational-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-for-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-and-considerations-during-severe-shortages)

https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1517-83822006000300003