



# Face masks:

## Guidance for health facilities

- Masks should always be worn at the health facilities. However, the use of masks alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. Hand hygiene, proper screening, and appropriate PPE should also be used.
- WHO provides guidance on the use of PPE and donning/doffing. Please refer this guidance and training.
- Medical professionals should wear a medical mask when entering a room where patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are admitted.
- All staff at screening/triage points should wear masks.
- Always use a medical mask if available at your facility.
- Use a particulate respirator at least as protective as a US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health certified N95, European Union standard FFP2, or equivalent, when performing or working in settings where aerosol-generating procedures, such as tracheal intubation, non-invasive ventilation, tracheotomy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, manual ventilation before intubation, and bronchoscopy are performed.
- One study found that cloth masks are not as effective as medical masks. However, if this is your only option, it is better than nothing.
- For any type of mask, appropriate use and disposal are essential to ensure that they are effective and to avoid any increase in transmission
  - Place the mask carefully, ensuring it covers the mouth and nose, and tie it securely to minimize any gaps between the face and the mask.
  - Avoid touching the mask while wearing it.
  - Remove the mask using the appropriate technique: do not touch the front of the mask but untie it from behind.
  - After removal or whenever a used mask is inadvertently touched, clean hands using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
  - Replace masks as soon as they become damp with a new clean, dry mask.
  - Do not re-use single-use masks.
  - Discard single-use masks after each use and dispose of them immediately upon removal.