

### **Extended use of Masks for Health Care Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Extended use refers to the practice of wearing the same mask or N95 mask for repeated encounters with several patients, without removing them between encounters.

Masks may be worn for extended periods of time as long as the mask:

- has not been worn during an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP)
- has not reached end of use by being wet or damaged
- is not difficult to breathe through

A disposable face mask may be worn for hours as long as it is not wet or distorted and has not been contaminated while delivering patient care.

During patient care, take care to NOT TOUCH your masks or facial/eye protection. This includes not drinking or eating while wearing a mask.

If you are entering a patient's room, where contact/droplet isolation precautions are implemented, a full face shield should be worn to prevent contamination of your mask.