

***Sent on behalf of John B. Murphy, MD, Executive Vice President, Physician Affairs
Leonard A. Mermel, DO, Department of Epidemiology and Infection Control ***

New Surgical Mask Guidelines, Effective 4/22/2020

Dear Colleagues:

With additional inventory of surgical masks expected this week from the Rhode Island Department of Health, our Lifespan surgical mask supply is currently robust enough to loosen our guidelines on mask use and preservation. Effective today:

- We are no longer reprocessing surgical masks.
- Each staff person, provider, care team member should replace their surgical mask daily.

For patient care service staff and ancillary department staff, new masks will be available in the respective departments for use.

For providers, masks will continue to be available in their designated location for pick-up:

- Rhode Island Hospital -- George Auditorium and Anderson ED lobby
- The Miriam Hospital -- 2nd floor Baxt Building, Surgery Liaison desk
- Newport Hospital – Incident Command Center, Gudoian Conference Room
- Bradley Hospital -- Infection Control Office, pediatric wing

Blue surgical masks can be discarded in the regular trash receptacles at the end of each day.

Please note that this is based on the supply of personal protective equipment Lifespan has been allocated by RI DOH. If RI DOH is unable to procure new PPE, reprocessing may be reinstated at a future date. New guidelines for N95 respirator usage are also being developed and instructions will be published in a few days.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of our patients. The safety of all our health care professionals, employees and patients continues to be at the forefront of everything we do.

Sincerely,

John B. Murphy, MD, Executive Vice President, Physician Affairs
Leonard A. Mermel, DO, Department of Epidemiology and Infection Control

