



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 1-3-2024

**Subject:** Updated Mask Requirements

**Date:** January 6, 2024

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As previously stated in General Order 12-6-23 Frederick Hospital placed the following requirements into effect.

With the recent increase in RSV, COVID-19 and the Flu, it is strongly encouraged to wear a mask on incidents in which patient care is involved. Patients with these diagnoses have increased recently in surrounding hospitals and patient care facilities. If you need any additional supplies, please reach out to the Quartermaster for these supplies.

We have been made aware that effective December 26, 2023, Frederick Health Hospital, which includes all patient-facing or patient-care locations, will be requiring all clinicians to wear a surgical mask or N-95 while in their facilities. Additionally, they are requesting that we notify the patient of the hospital requirements and strongly encourage they wear a mask when entering the facilities. It is NOT mandatory for patients to wear mask but is strongly encouraged.

Since the issuance of General Order 12-6-23 the following updates and changes have been instituted at various hospitals.

**Hanover – UPMC** – Mandatory mask requirements for all EMS personnel whom enter the hospital with a strong encouragement for patients who can tolerate mask to also wear mask while in their facility.

**Carroll Hospital Center** – Effective January 8, 2024 Carroll Hospital Center will have the following requirements: For this General Order all Fire and EMS personnel will be considered Team Members.

### Team Member Masking – Indoors

- Masking is **now required for all patient contact in inpatient and outpatient facilities**, which is defined as:
- Entering patient rooms or providing direct care or services in shared patient care areas, **including nursing stations**.
- Transporting patients or providing therapy to patients outside their room.
- **Team members should honor patient requests to mask, regardless of setting.**
- Team members should wear a well-fitting surgical mask (no gaping); KN95/N95 recommended.
- **Masking is optional** in public spaces of facilities.
- This includes waiting rooms, lobbies, cafeterias, staff lounges, etc.

**\*\*\*Please note that requirements are changing daily and any request by facilities for personal to don a mask shall be followed and notification made to EMS 100 of the changes. \*\*\***