

Recommendations for Utilization of Clear Masks-PPE

Due to limited supplies of clear masks, individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, wear hearing aids, have cognitive or developmental disabilities who are dependent on lip reading and facial cues as a critical aspect of their ability to communicate and be understood should be our first priority for the utilization of clear masks.

Below are consideration for the dispensation and utilization of clear masks*.

Patients	Clear Mask
Patient /Visitor is <i>not</i> deaf, hearing impaired, cognitive or development disability, or a speech impediment reliant on lip reading and facial cues for understanding and engagement	No
Patient/Visitor is Deaf and/or Hearing Impaired	Yes
Patient/Visitor has a cognitive and or developmental disability or other sensory sensitivity that is reliant on lip reading and facial cues for engagement and communication	Yes
Patient/Visitor has a speech impediment and is reliant on lip reading in order to understand or be understood	Yes
Caregivers	
Caregiver is <i>not</i> supporting/providing services to a patient/visitor/or another caregiver who is deaf, hearing impaired, cognitive or development disability, speech impediment that is reliant on lip reading and facial cues for understanding and engagement	No
Caregiver is supporting/providing services to a patient/visitor/or another caregiver who is deaf, hearing impaired, cognitive or development disability, speech impediment that is reliant on lip reading and facial cues for understanding and engagement	Yes

***Clear Masks**-If clear masks are not available, take steps to improve communication through the use of written communication, notepads, shared computer screens, voice to speech applications (if available), close captioning, and decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a mask that blocks the lips and may impede understanding