Updated Mask Guidance – April 14

At the MFA, your safety is our top priority. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we are constantly refining our approaches and procedures to align with the current situation. We are currently following CDC guidelines for mask usage. While we have a sufficient supply of PPE, the future impact of COVID-19 on our region remains unknown. Therefore, we must continue to use PPE resources as deemed appropriate by the CDC and collectively be good stewards of these resources.

Recently we asked all of you in our clinical areas, in accordance with CDC advice, to wear surgical masks or face coverings. We are now making this mandatory as of Wednesday, April 15, 2020. **Everyone in our facilities must wear a surgical mask or cloth face covering.** This guidance will continually be monitored and evaluated with updates as deemed appropriate given the current situation. Please see below for more specific details.

**Patient Care**

- Those involved in direct patient care must wear the appropriate PPE to care for that patient safely.
- When you are not directly caring for an isolation patient but work in a patient care area, **wear an MFA or GW Hospital issued surgical mask.**
- When you are directly caring for an isolation patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, individuals should continue to follow all best-practice isolation and PPE precautions, which may include wearing an N95 mask when appropriate. It is important to note that most MFA employees will not need to wear an N95 mask on a regular basis in the ambulatory setting at this time.
- Surgical masks can be picked up or exchanged at our MFA lobby locations at the main Ambulatory Care Center (South Lobby) or 2300 M Street, NW.

**Non-Patient Facing**

- In accordance with the CDC, it is advised that you wear a face covering
- You may bring a cloth or homemade mask in for use in MFA facilities for non-patient facing areas
- Please note that cloth masks should be washed each day (please reference CDC guidelines)

If you have questions about obtaining a mask or other necessary PPE, ask your supervisor immediately so that we can assist you. Your safety and protection and the well-being of our patients is our top priority. We appreciate your commitment to our organization, our patients and thank-you for your perseverance during these challenging times.