

Med School Watercooler

NEWS FROM FREDERICK P. WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Thursday, July 2, 2020

What's 'universal masking' at USA Health?



Anna Foust, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, walks through University Hospital with USA College of Medicine medical students Kaitlin Ervin, Kendal Dekle, Erin Schmale and Jordan Matthews Smith.

USA Health's universal masking guidelines require faculty, staff and learners within the hospitals and clinics to wear face masks from the time they arrive at a facility until they leave for the day.

USA Health announced the policy April 3 in a letter to employees from Owen Bailey, chief executive officer for USA Health, and John V. Marymont, M.D., vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

"While wearing a mask when we are in contact with others, we can prevent transmission of the virus. We are also protecting ourselves from becoming infected by someone else," said Benjamin Estrada, M.D., professor of pediatrics at the USA College of Medicine and a pediatric infectious diseases physician at USA Health.

The USA Health policy, which was updated in May, offers these specifics:

- Masks are required for all staff at all times while in a USA Health facility. This includes contract employees, delivery persons, vendors, etc.
- Masks may be either hospital supplied or privately owned. Privately owned masks NEVER take the place of hospital-approved PPE when caring for patients on any isolation ward.
- Hospital masks will be supplied by your supervisor and can be worn for seven days or until soiled or damaged.
- Guidelines on privately owned masks were published on the USA Health COVID-19 website on April 1, 2020. The guidelines state that cloth masks decrease the risk of droplet transmission to others from the person wearing them, but have minimal effect in preventing inhalation of micro droplets present in the surrounding environment. The

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Conference on Mental Health set for July 29

guidelines also state that no Joint Commission standards or other requirements prohibit staff from using PPE brought from home.

- Privately owned masks must be removed and stored prior to donning appropriate hospital-supplied PPE for isolation patients.

In addition to masks, the USA College of Medicine dress code for medical students in clerkships and clinical skills sessions requires them to wear official gray scrubs and no white coats or business attire during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Posted by [Med School Watercooler](#) at [1:12 PM](#) No comments:

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Conference on Mental Health set for July 29

The University of South Alabama Office of Continuing Medical Education will host the South Alabama Conference on Mental Health from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, July 29. The conference, titled "Better Results with Scott Miller, Ph.D.," will be available via Zoom video conferencing.



Miller is a co-founder of the International Center for Clinical Excellence, an international consortium of clinicians, researchers and educators dedicated to promoting excellence in behavior health. He conducts workshops and training in the United States and abroad, helping hundreds of agencies and organizations, both public and private, to achieve superior results. He is one of a handful of invited faculty whose work, thinking and research is featured at the prestigious "Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference." His humorous and engaging presentation style and command of the research literature consistently inspires practitioners, administrators and policy makers to make effective changes in service delivery.

The cost is \$10 to register. To register online, [visit the CME Tracker website](#).

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