**Face Covering Guidance**

With the close monitoring of North Carolina and more specifically, Mecklenburg County COVID-19 case volume, stricter public guidelines have been recently communicated to include:

* Governor Cooper’s Executive Order requiring face coverings in public settings **and**
* Mecklenburg County’s mandate for face coverings in parks and within County/City buildings

With these recent updates, we know there are questions about what to do when at Post 100 and when in public while on duty.

To comply with the mandates and to ensure you and your loved ones stay healthy, you will be asked to wear a face covering in the building and any other assigned posts, particularly when you are in common spaces or in areas where social distancing (at least 6 feet of space between you and your co-worker) is not attainable. While on duty and visiting public areas, be sure to follow the orders to wear a face covering. This includes all retail businesses, restaurants, parks, County and City buildings.

Each internal Medic department has different responsibilities and space limitations so for some general guidance, examples of when and when not to wear face coverings are provided below.

When should I wear a face covering?

1. Standing at the time clocks while waiting to clock in and out
2. Entering the break room with others already in the same space
3. At the logistics window when waiting for equipment
4. When entering a conference room for a meeting
5. When you have a visitor in your office or cubicle space
6. In shared spaces or common areas such as restrooms, department cul-de-sacs with work stations facing each other or printer/mail room areas
7. In the cab of the ambulance when there are 2 or more people sitting upfront and you are not on a call. Follow mask guidance per PPE guidelines if you are driving and transporting a patient.

When is it okay to not wear a face covering?

1. When you are in your office or cubicle working alone
2. When you can safely socially distance – if you are unsure if the spacing is adequate, wear a face covering
3. If it impairs or causes risk for visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle
4. If you are eligible for an exception under the Executive Order

Should you not have a face covering available, please see a member of the logistics team at the Logistics Window and you will be issued one. It is your responsibility to maintain the cleanliness and good order of your face covering. All dress code policy and standards of behavior expectations continue to apply.

For any departmental specific guidance, please discuss with your direct manager.