Reminder… For patients on Droplet Precautions a new surgical mask should be donned when caring for patients on isolation. A new mask must be donned each time when entering a patient room.

Ear loop and tie masks are appropriate, either may be worn.

There is not a shortage of surgical masks. Please monitor supplies throughout the day and submit requests for re-stocking before supplies are exhausted.

Signage has been revised and will be available within the next few weeks.

If you have traveled to Western Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone, or Liberia) in the past 21 days and have the following symptoms:

+ Fever
+ Chills
+ Tiredness/Weakness
+ Coughing
+ Muscle Aches
+ Headache
+ Vomiting

PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE RECEPTIONIST.
**Stool Specimens**

New PCR technology is now used for testing stool specimens for bacteria, viruses, and parasites. The testing is not impacted if stool specimens are mixed with urine. Therefore if stool is accidentally mixed with urine, the lab will still accept this specimen. Please do not delay collection of stool specimen.

**Disposable Wipes**

*Don’t rush to flush!* Disposable wipes used for patient care and environmental cleaning are NOT to be flushed in the toilet. Do not put wipes into toilets, discard in trashcan. Please take every opportunity to educate visitors and family to refrain from disposing these items into the toilet.

**Collection Technique for Quantiferon-TB Gold Test**

Please follow instructions when collecting specimens for the QFT, *gently invert tube, do not shake.* Not following the correct collection technique can lead to repeat testing and an unnecessary delay.

**Linen Hampers Required for Contact Isolation**

For patients on isolation, please request a yellow disposable hamper to be placed in the patient room for disposition of linen. Do not place linen on floor.

**Safe Infusion Practice for Spiking IV Bags**

IV bags should be spiked as close to the time of administration as possible, not to exceed one hour in advance of their use. The only exceptions to this are Code Red Rooms, Emergent Open Heart and ECMO cases. These bags must be dated and timed for 24 hours.

**Fit Test Products**

Select fit test products are now available for individual purchase in SDS. These products include the sensitive bitter solution, bitter solution, and hoods.

**The Joint Commission Survey Prep - Food and Beverages in Patient Care Areas**

Just a friendly reminder, it is an OSHA violation to have food and beverages in patient care areas.

**New Foley Catheter Trays**

To assist in the reduction catheter-associated urinary tract infections, we will be implementing a new foley catheter tray. The new trays are expected to be in circulation by the end of March.