



SURGICAL MASKS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 Effective immediately, the Medical Equipment Unit will begin distribution of surgical masks to all FDNY EMS units and CFR-D companies. Surgical masks are for patient use only and are not a substitute for the N-95 masks used by patient care providers for infectious disease protection.
- 1.2 Patients suspected of having an infectious disease transmitted by airborne or droplet routes (e.g., viral illness, pneumonia, influenza) will be given surgical masks to reduce the spread of infectious materials from coughing and/or sneezing.
- 1.3 One box of surgical masks shall be placed on each ambulance and CFR-D company. Ten surgical masks shall be carried in each oxygen bag.

2. PROCEDURE

- 2.1 When treating a patient with a suspected infectious disease transmitted by airborne or droplet routes, members shall:
 - 2.1.1 Immediately place a surgical mask on the patient, especially if the patient is coughing and/or sneezing.

NOTE: If the patient refuses to wear a surgical mask, document the refusal on the ACR/PCR.
 - 2.1.2 Initiate patient assessment and treatment according to Department policy and procedures, and REMAC protocols.
 - 2.1.3 If indicated, administer high concentration oxygen via non-rebreather mask (NRB) in place of using a surgical mask.

3. RELATED PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Office of Medical Affairs Directive 2003-24, *Infectious Respiratory Disease Precautions*.

**BY ORDER OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER, CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT
AND THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS**