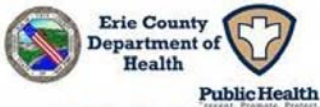


**MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
COUNTY OF ERIE**



**CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF ILI/COVID WORKING GROUP
OF WESTERN NEW YORK:
MASK USAGE
November 12, 2020**

- The working group recommends that individuals wear face masks to protect the people around them.
- All healthcare providers should wear masks at all times in all healthcare settings.
- All patients and visitors entering any medical facility or office should wear a mask, unless there is a strong medical contraindication, or they are less than 2 years old.
- The effectiveness of masks increases with the percentage of the population using them. To increase mask use, healthcare providers should NOT tell patients that masks are not important.
- All providers should actively educate their patients on the effectiveness of masks and strongly encourage their use.
- Individuals should wash their hands before putting on a mask. The mask should cover the nose, mouth, and chin, and should fit snugly to the side of the face.

References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 10). *Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 4). *Infection Control Guidance*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020, September 3). *How to Wear Masks*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>