



PNiS/CC

26th April 2020

Dr Colm Henry
Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens Hospital
Dublin 8

By email to: cco@hse.ie

Re: Universal use of Facemasks

Dear Dr Henry,

Thank you for your consideration of the submissions from INMO relating to the universal wearing of facemasks. We welcome the introduction of this policy and have advised our members accordingly.

Since the announcement we have had a number of queries from our members and It would appear that there are a range of instructions being issued by HSE managers, private health care providers and agencies in relation to the disposal and reuse of face masks.

We would welcome a strong clear statement from your office to all agencies who are involved in the provision of health care, across the public and private sector, which clarifies that:

- surgical face masks are not suitable for reuse;
- should **not** be placed in Ziplock plastic bag following wearing and reused at another time by the same worker;
- Should **not** be placed in a container post use, which will be removed by the employer to facilitate cleaning of the masks which would then be recycled and re used by any employee;
- should be disposed of in clinical waste following any interaction with any patient regardless of their Covid-19 status; and
- should **not** be worn for longer than a 2-hour period for single use.

Looking forward to your confirmation that this instruction will issue.

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PHIL NÍ SHEAGHDHA
General Secretary