Dear Colleagues,

Given the rising number of cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi, and the increased risk of exposure to healthcare professionals and patients, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends that all healthcare workers wear surgical masks throughout the workday. This recommendation applies to healthcare professionals working in clinical care areas, even if they do not come into direct contact with patients. Healthcare professionals included in this recommendation are all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings with the potential for either direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, contaminated medical supplies or contaminated environmental surfaces.

Masks should be replaced when they become soiled or moist but should never be used for more than one day. If surgical masks are not available, locally produced masks of similar quality or homemade cloth masks can be used. Cloth masks should be laundered daily in hot water and dried with high heat.


Regards,

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Alerting Message Specification Settings

- **Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health
- **Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
- **Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20200404-00438-ALT
- **Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert
- **Status (Type):** Actual ()
- **Message Type:** Alert
- **Reference:** MSHAN-00438
- **Severity:** Unknown
- **Acknowledgement:** No
- **Sensitive:** Not Sensitive
- **Message Expiration:** Undetermined
- **Urgency:** Undetermined
- **Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

### Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

- **Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
- **Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
- **Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmm-dd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
- **Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.
- **Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- **Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
- **Status (Type):**
  - **Actual:** Communication or alert refers to a live event
  - **Exercise:** Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
  - **Test:** Communication or alert is related to a technical system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:
- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:
- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:
- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).