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For immediate release

### **Doshier to Enforce Mask Wearing Policy for all Patients, Visitors, Non Clinical Staff**

SOUTHPORT— As our state begins steps to phase into reopening and with the knowledge that symptom screening may not identify individuals who are infected with the Novel Coronavirus who are otherwise asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, Doshier Hospital is expanding important source control measures. Effective Monday, May 18, 2020, everyone entering the facility and outpatient settings will be required to wear a face mask while in the building, regardless of symptoms. The exception would be for pediatric patients under the age of two years. This approach is consistent with the CDC recommendation to the general public advising them to wear a cloth face covering whenever they must leave their home.

This is in addition to a face mask policy that was already in effect for all employees treating patients or within 6 feet of patients for over ten minutes, and will include employees in non-clinical settings and office spaces.

Patients and visitors of the hospital and outpatient settings without a mask will be provided with a cloth mask upon arrival that will be theirs to keep for re-use after their visit. Ideally, cloth masks should be washed each day after use. It is important that a fabric mask is completely dry before wearing it, as its ability to capture particles is diminished when wet.

Doshier is continuing to accept donations of cloth masks to be used for non-clinical personnel, patients, and visitors. For inquiry on how to donate, please contact [ileneevans@doshier.org](mailto:ileneevans@doshier.org) or call 910-457-9292.

It is important to remember that the use of a cloth face covering does not take the place of social distancing. The hospital is asking all patients and visitors to stand at least six feet apart in communal areas.

For more information on the use of cloth face coverings:

- Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

- Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-coverings-information.pdf>

- How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-covering.pdf>

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