



Face coverings and dry skin

Mask wearing is now mandatory for all hospital staff and advised for community healthcare professionals including those working in care homes.

Prolonged wearing of facial protective equipment can cause or aggravate existing skin problems and the use of facial emollients is recommended.¹

- 74% of health staff reported skin damage related to facial protection²
- Nearly 70% reported skin dryness²

“The use of moisturising products is highly recommended to achieve better protection³”



Tips for preventing and managing facial skin irritation

- Cleanse your face by using your emollient as a soap substitute, and avoid the use of all soaps and detergents on your face.
- Use a fragrance-free emollient to moisturise your skin after wearing facial protection. Apply with smooth downwards strokes.
- Avoid wearing make-up under your mask, as it may block skin pores.
- If your lips become dry, wear a fragrance-free lip salve or an emollient ointment.



If you already have a dry skin condition

- Continue using your prescribed skin treatment. Some treatments may increase in potency under occlusion, so try to allow an hour for absorption before wearing any facial covering.



Prepared by Julie van Onselen - Dermatology Advisor and Educator

References: 1. Yan Y. et al. Consensus of Chinese experts on protection of skin and mucous membrane barrier for health-care workers fighting against coronavirus disease 2019, *Dermatologic Therapy*. 2020; e13310 • Bhatia R. et al. Iatrogenic dermatitis in times of COVID-19: a pandemic within a pandemic, *JEADV*, 2020 European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology.

2. Lin P. et al. Adverse skin reactions among healthcare workers during the Coronavirus Disease 2019. Outbreak: a survey in Wuhan and its surroundings regions. *Br J Dermatol* 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.19089>.

3. Lan J. et al. Skin damage among healthcare workers managing coronavirus disease-2019. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2020;82(5):1215-1216.

Do not smoke or go near naked flames - risk of severe burns. Fabric (clothing, bedding, dressings etc) that has been in contact with this product burns more easily and is a serious fire hazard. Washing clothing and bedding may reduce product build-up but not totally remove it.

ZRD-2111

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