



Arkansas Department of Health

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Guidance for Use of Individually Owned PPE

The Arkansas Department of Health urges healthcare facilities to refrain from prohibiting employees from wearing individually owned protective masks or other equipment or disciplining employees who do so. Due to the current environment of low supplies of personal protective equipment, we most certainly encourage healthcare facilities to reserve use of masks and other personal protective equipment for when medically indicated. However, the ADH encourages leniency in enforcing policies that restrict healthcare workers' use of individually owned supplies.

The ADH recognizes that in some settings masks and other PPE are not medically indicated, but some healthcare workers may feel more comfortable wearing protective gear. Fear of illness is an issue for many people, including healthcare workers. Supportive policies and practices help employees who are worried about risk of exposure. All available healthcare professionals are needed at their highest level of capacity during this outbreak. Infection control staff in healthcare facilities can also provide staff important education about the ways in which masks can and cannot limit the spread of COVID-19.