Clarification on Use of Cloth or Personally Sourced Masks At Providence Portland Medical Center (PPMC)
(From Providence Spirit email dated March 2020)

Staff are allowed to wear cloth or personally sourced masks as long as they are not caring for patients in isolation (with a list of other caveats):

- If a caregiver chooses to wear a mask/respirator, it will NOT be hospital provided, unless it is required for:
  - Standard precautions
  - Transmission-based isolation precautions
- A mask/respirator can be a source of cross-contamination if you touch it (outside or inside), not clean your hands, and touch your eyes, nose, or surfaces in the hospital.
- It is important to know that non-hospital provided face masks have not been reviewed/fitted for optimal protection, safety or effectiveness in protection from infection and that non-hospital provided N95 respirators have not met Fit Testing requirements and may give a false sense of security.
- If you choose to bring a mask/respirator to wear, the following guidelines must be adhered to:
  - Clean your hands each time prior to and after touching the mask/respirator to avoid cross-contamination.
  - You must ONLY wear hospital approved/provided personal protection equipment (PPE) in ALL isolation rooms per policy and procedure.
  - You must remove your (personal) mask/respirator, prior to donning hospital-provided PPE and follow the steps below:
    - Store mask/respirator in a paper bag labeled with name
    - Clean your hands
    - Don appropriate PPE prior to entering a patient’s room who is on transmission-based isolation.
  - Your personal mask is not to be worn under the powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) hood when caring for patients with airborne precautions.
  - NO MASKS are to be worn under the PAPR hood at any time.
- Your personal mask (fabric or other material) must be tasteful, professional and in alignment with our core values. (Cartoon images will NOT be permitted.)
PPMC does not endorse the practice of using other Providence products or supplies to create new/novel PPE types. New ideas for PPE should be submitted to the materials team for evaluation.