

Personal Protective Equipment – Extended Use and Reuse Guidelines

PURPOSE

The intent of this document is to provide options for PPE conservation. Facilities must take into consideration variables such as current inventory levels and geographical spread of COVID-19.

DEFINITIONS

Extended Use - Practice of using the same piece of protective equipment by one healthcare worker (HCW) for multiple encounters with different patients but same diagnosis **without removing between encounters**. Extended use is favored over reuse, it is expected to involve less touching reducing risk of contact transmission.

Reuse - Practice of using the same piece of protective equipment by one HCW for multiple encounters with different patients but **removing it after each encounter**.

PPE ITEM	CONTINGENCY CAPACITY- Shortage changes daily standard practices but does not significantly impact patient or HCW safety.	CRISIS CAPACITY- Shortages require strategies that are not commensurate with usual standards of care.
<p>Isolation Gown</p>	<p>Shift to cloth isolation gown if available</p> <p>Use disposable coveralls “bunny suits”</p> <p>Suspend use of gowns for endemic multidrug resistant organisms (e.g. MRSA, VRE, ESBL-producing organisms)</p>	<p>Extended use of isolation gowns (disposable or cloth) IF no co-infectious diagnoses requiring contact isolation (e.g. C difficile)</p> <p>Reuse of isolation gowns by wearing an apron over the gown to prevent excessive exposure</p> <p>Suspend use of gowns for endemic multidrug resistant organisms (e.g. MRSA, VRE, ESBL-producing organisms)</p> <p>Prioritize use for activities where splashes or sprays are anticipated or high-contact patient care such as bathing, transferring, assisting with toileting, changing linens</p> <p>When No Gowns Are Available Use disposable or washable lab coat, patient gown, apron or any combination of clothing to provide protection</p>

<p>Eye Protection</p>	<p>Implement extended use-remove and reprocess if item becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through. Discard eye protection if becomes damaged.</p> <p>Reuse of goggles or faceshield. Clean and disinfect between uses.</p>	<p>Prioritize use for activities where splashes or sprays are anticipated or face-to-face close contact is unavoidable.</p> <p>Use safety glasses (e.g. trauma glasses) that have extensions to cover the side of the eyes.</p>
<p>Reprocessing Eye Protection: If manufacturer instructions for cleaning/disinfection are unavailable, such as for single use disposable face shields, consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While wearing gloves, carefully wipe <i>the inside, followed by the outside</i> of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent or cleaner wipe. 2. Carefully wipe the <i>outside</i> of the face shield or goggles using a wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution. 3. Wipe the outside of face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue. 4. Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels). 5. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene. 		
<p>PPE ITEM</p>	<p>CONTINGENCY CAPACITY- Shortage changes daily standard practices but does not significantly impact patient or HCW safety.</p>	<p>CRISIS CAPACITY- Shortages require strategies that are not commensurate with usual standards of care.</p>
<p>Facemasks</p>	<p>Implement extended use of facemasks. Remove and discard if soiled, damaged or hard to breathe through.</p> <p>Dedicate facemasks for use by HCWs, rather than patient source control. Have patient use tissues or other barriers to cover mouth and nose.</p>	<p>Implement reuse. Carefully fold used facemask, outer surface held inward and against itself to reduce contact with outer surface during storage. Store folded mask in between uses in a clean breathable bag or container (preferred).</p> <p>Prioritize facemasks for selected activities such as essential surgeries and procedures, where splashes and sprays are anticipated, or prolonged face-to-face close contact is unavoidable.</p> <p>When No Facemasks Are Available Use a faceshield that covers the entire front and sides of the face with no facemask</p> <p>Use portable HEPA filtration device to increase clean air changes per hour</p>

<p>N95 Respirators</p>	<p>Implement extended use. Face shield preferred to goggles (if available) to reduce surface contamination of N95. Discard if soiled, damaged or hard to breathe through.</p> <p>Wear a standard mask over the N95 to prevent exposure and extend use.</p>	<p>Implement Re-use. Place used N95 in a clean, breathable container (preferred) or bag. Store respirators so they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified.</p> <p>Use N95s beyond manufacturer's designated shelf life.</p> <p>When No N95s Are Available Use facemask and face shield</p>
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For any questions please contact your local Infection Prevention department or Quality Leader.

References:

CDC Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/release-stockpiled-N95.html>

CDC. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

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