

Optimal Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All health-care workers and support employees who have direct contact with patients or whose work requires close proximity to patients (less than two metres) must wear a procedure mask and eye protection. In addition, gloves must be worn for direct patient contact.

GLOVES



- Wear only for direct patient care.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after each use.
- Change gloves between patients. Do not wear gloves between patient encounters due to risk of environmental contamination.

NOTE: Hand hygiene remains the best way to prevent the spread of this virus.

N95 RESPIRATORS



- Wear for airborne isolation patients and aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) only.
- Continue to wear N95 respirators as long as possible, including use for multiple patients interactions.
- Reusing N95 respirators (taking off/putting back on) is NOT recommended.
- Save N95 respirators for reprocessing unless damaged, until further supply is available. For more information, please refer to the March 27 memo on collecting used N95 masks.

GOWNS



- Wear gowns for all patients suspected or confirmed with COVID-19. Change between patients if supplies permit.
- In hospitalized patients, in situations where gown supply is low, a new gown is required when caring for patients with carbapenemase producing organisms (CPO), *C. difficile*, or MRSA.
- Remove gowns if performing tasks in non-patient care areas such as nursing stations, medication rooms, break rooms & meeting rooms.

EYE PROTECTION

(mask with visor, face shield, eye goggles, safety glasses)



- Wear throughout shift.
- Clean when removed for breaks, at end of shift, or soiled.
- Staff wearing eyeglasses may require a face shield if goggles/safety glasses cause eyewear to fog up.
- For face shields, a single staff member may reuse the item (after cleaning) for as long as possible.
- Follow cleaning guidelines.

SURGICAL MASKS



- Use the same mask for as long as possible.
- Use the same mask for interactions with multiple non-COVID-19 patients, and continue to use in non-patient care areas.
- Discard masks when damp, soiled, damaged or before drinking/eating.
- Do not touch the front of the mask.

NOTE: Always perform hand hygiene if mask is adjusted, touched, or removed.

CLOTHING

- Wear regular clothes and shoes to the facility and, upon arrival, change into work clothes or scrubs (if previously assigned).
- Use dedicated footwear while at work.
- At the end of the shift, change back into regular clothing and shoes before leaving the facility.

