

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Extended Use and Reuse Policy for COVID-19

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### Surgical/Procedure Facemask Reuse Guidelines:

- Providers may use half piece face respirators or Powered Air Purified Respirators (PAPRs) for intubation and extubation on patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  - Both half piece face respirators and PAPRs have exhalation ports and are not protective for surgical patients.
  - Wear a surgical mask under the PAPR and follow reuse guidelines for surgical and procedural facemasks as below.
- Healthcare workers (HCW) who perform direct patient care including in operative and procedural areas will be provided one surgical or procedural mask per shift and as needed for clinical circumstances. At the start of shift, label a paper bag with HCW name or initials and date. Surgical or procedural mask may be replaced if it becomes visibly soiled or damaged. To prevent touching face, limit removing facemask in patient care areas including nursing station. Surgical or procedural mask should be placed in bins for reprocessing at the end of shift.
- For initial use of mask:
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to donning surgical or procedural mask
  - Perform hand hygiene after donning surgical or procedural mask
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to doffing surgical or procedural mask
  - Perform hand hygiene after doffing surgical or procedural mask
  - Place surgical or procedural mask in labeled paper bag and perform hand hygiene
  - If reusing, store in safe location between use
- When *reusing* surgical or procedural mask, complete the following safety steps
  - Perform hand hygiene
  - Remove surgical or procedural mask from labeled bag
  - Don surgical or procedural mask and adjust
  - Perform hand hygiene
- When caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients who are not requiring aerosol generating procedures,
  - Wear facemask across patient encounters
  - Do not store and reuse
  - Place in bin for reprocessing at each break and at end of day
  - Perform hand hygiene
- Facemasks used for patients (e.g. for transport) may be used over multiple days over course of hospitalization
  - Place mask in paper bag with patient initials and store in patient room in safe location

**N95 Respirator Reuse Guidelines:**

- Reuse of N95 respirators is recommended if used by a single healthcare worker (HCW) for one shift if not used in the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Place in reprocessing bin at the end of the day. At the start of shift, label a paper bag with HCW name or initials and date.
- Whenever using N95 respirator, complete the following safety steps:
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to donning N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene after donning N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to doffing N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene after doffing N95 respirator
  - Place N95 respirator in labeled paper bag
  - Perform hand hygiene
  - If reusing, store in safe location between use
- When *reusing* N95 respirator, complete the following safety steps
  - Perform hand hygiene
  - Remove N95 respirator from labeled bag
  - Don N95 respirator and adjust
  - Perform hand hygiene
- When caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients during an aerosol generating procedure, nebulizer treatment or patients on high-flow oxygen or on non-invasive ventilation:
  - Limit the personnel in the room
  - Wear N95 respirator for procedure or treatment
  - Doff and place in reprocessing bin after procedure or treatment
  - Perform hand hygiene
- When caring for an assignment of patients whose conditions require use of both a surgical or procedural mask and an N95 respirator:
  - Wear N95 respirator only
  - Follow guidelines above for each patient care situation

**Powered Air Purified Respirators (PAPRs) Reuse Guidelines:**

- PAPR devices and hoods may be reused and used by multiple HCWs
- PAPR hoods should be examined before each use and should be discarded if torn or seams are not intact.
- PAPR device and hood should be cleaned and disinfected using a hospital approved disinfectant for 2 minutes (e.g., PDI Super-Sani Cloths, alcohol wipes) and allowed to dry after each use.
- Use care to avoid dampening battery pack when cleaning

**Half piece face respirators**

- May be used by a single HCW
- Examine for damage prior to use
- Perform negative/positive pressure check prior to use
- The respirator should be cleaned and disinfected using a hospital approved disinfectant for 2 minutes (e.g., PDI Super-Sani Cloths, alcohol wipes) and allowed to dry after each use, do not remove the filters but wipe them down
- Wipe the plastic where it comes in contact with skin with an alcohol wipe

**Gown Reuse Guidelines:**

- If contact with body fluids not anticipated, use washable fabric gown where available.
- Disposable gowns should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays or contact with body fluids are anticipated and for patients in contact precautions. They must be discarded after contact or procedure.
- Disposable or cloth gowns are recommended for reuse by multiple HCWs for low risk or moderate risk scenarios for patients on contact precautions for MRSA, VRE or MDRO
- A gown should NOT be reused and should be discarded if it is visibly soiled, ripped or damaged.
- Gowns should be stored in a manner to prevent contamination (e.g., hang on command hooks in the patient room) close to the patient room door
- Gowns are not recommended for reuse if used in high risk scenarios.

- **Low Risk Scenarios:**

- Basic patient care
- Cover gown for visitors

- **Moderate Risk Scenarios:**

- Performing blood draws
- Suturing
- Establishing IV access
- Wound/ostomy care

- **High Risk Scenarios:**

- Invasive procedures
- Surgery
- Lengthy, fluid intense procedures
- Trauma cases
- Special contact precautions
- Precautions for suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Precautions for CRE

**Eye Protection Reuse Guidelines:**

- Reuse of goggles or other reusable eye protection is recommended.
- Goggles or other reusable eye protection may be used by multiple HCWs

- Goggles or other reusable eye protection should be cleaned and disinfected for 2 minutes using a hospital approved disinfectant (e.g., PDI Super-Sani Cloths) and allowed to dry after each use and when visibly soiled.

**Extended Use and Reuse of Masks in Procedural Areas and Operating Rooms Policy for Patients who are NOT suspected or confirmed COVID-19:**

Providers performing intubation or other aerosol generating or high-risk procedures will be provided an N95 respirator and goggles to use for these procedures on patients who are not identified as having suspected or known COVID-19.

- Whenever using N95 respirator, complete the following safety steps:
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to donning N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene after donning N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene prior to doffing N95 respirator
  - Perform hand hygiene after doffing N95 respirator
  - Place N95 respirator in paper bag labeled with HCW name or initials
  - Store in safe location between use
- When *reusing* N95 respirator, complete the following safety steps
  - Perform hand hygiene
  - Remove N95 respirator from labeled bag
  - Don N95 respirator and adjust
  - Perform hand hygiene
- Mask will be used over several days until visibly soiled or damaged and goggles may be reused unless damaged .
- Reuse of goggles or other reusable eye protection is recommended.
- Goggles or other reusable eye protection should be cleaned and disinfected using a hospital approved disinfectant for 2 minutes (e.g., PDI Super-Sani Cloths) and allowed to dry after each use and when visibly soiled.