

Strategies to Optimize the Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) When Caring for Individuals with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection



Eye Protection

Conventional:

*Use eye protection consistent with local/state/federal requirements

Contingency:

*Dedicate eyewear to staff; re-use and clean with EPA approved solutions whenever soiled

Crisis:

*Prioritize eyewear for activities where splashes or sprays are anticipated or close-contact activities with a potentially infectious individual



Gowns

Conventional:

*Nonsterile, disposable patient isolation gowns are appropriate for use when caring for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Contingency:

*Re-use washable gowns/coveralls

Crisis:

*Extend use of disposable gowns
*Re-use cloth gowns



Facemasks

Conventional:

*Use facemasks consistent with local/state/federal requirements
*Surgical masks to protect against splashes/sprays/exposures

Contingency:

*Implement extended use of facemasks
*Restrict facemasks to caregivers, rather than individuals

Crisis:

*Implement limited re-use of facemasks

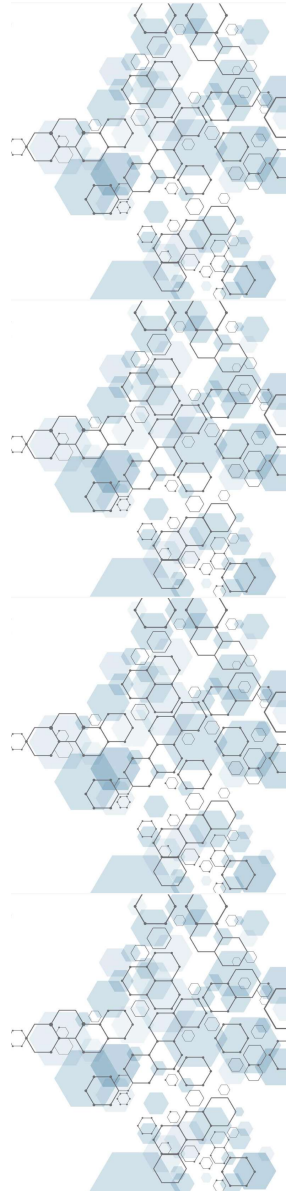


Other Considerations:

*When supplies allow, use N95 respirators only for caregivers/staff who need protection from both airborne and fluid hazards

*Use masks not evaluated or approved by NIOSH or homemade masks as a last resort

*Limit gown use to activities such as, bathing/showering, transferring, providing hygiene, changing linens, changing briefs or assisting with toileting, device care or use, or wound care



PPE: When and Where to Use

When Caring for Individuals with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection



Eye Protection

Types:

- *Surgical mask with an attached face shield, a full face shield, or goggles

When to use:

- *Providing direct care
- *Splash/spray exposures
- *Device/wound care
- *Interaction with any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals
- *Cleaning/laundry for any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals



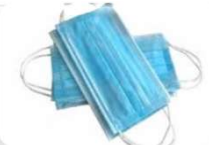
Gowns

Types:

- *Disposable, re-useable cloth gowns, coveralls

When to use:

- *Providing direct care
- *Splash/spray exposures
- *Device/wound care
- *Interaction with any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals
- *Cleaning/laundry for any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals



Facemasks

Conventional:

- *Surgical masks, N95s, homemade cloth masks (last resort)

When to use:

- *Performing COVID-19 screenings or triage
- *Providing direct care
- *Splash/spray exposures
- *Device/wound care
- *Interaction with any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals
- *Cleaning/laundry for any COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 symptomatic, or suspected-COVID-19-positive individuals



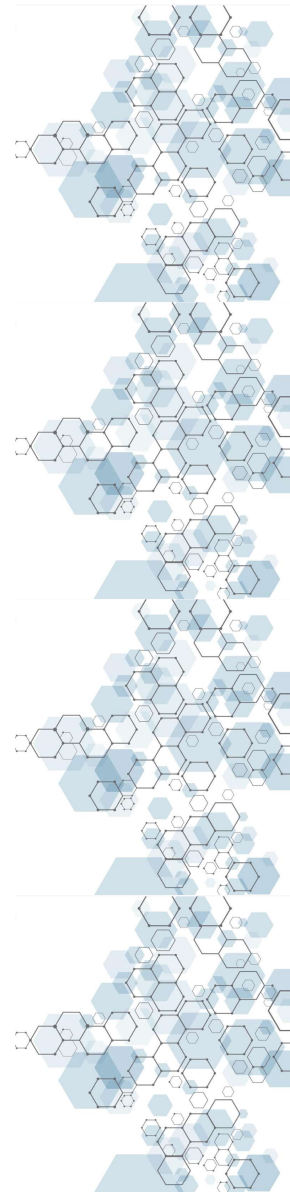
Other Considerations:

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, providers may choose to consider *all* residents to be "suspected-COVID-19-positive" and therefore use PPE aligned with that assumption.

*N95s should be reserved for staff providing direct care to COVID-19 positive individuals

*If re-using face masks, store in paper or cloth bag (not plastic) to prevent accumulation of moisture.

*Staff should change clothes and shower immediately when arriving home after a shift.





PPE: Frequent Residential Scenarios And Other Important Reminders



Wear PPE (gloves, masks, eyewear, gown) when providing high-contact direct care* to any individuals who are COVID-19 positive or COVID-19-suspected. Provider administration should define who your COVID-19-suspected population is.

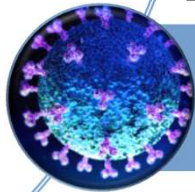
*Hands-on or face-to-face activities with individuals



Other activities for which PPE should be used include cleaning (eyewear, gloves, masks, gown) , laundering (gloves, mask, gown) , and preparing food (apron, gloves at minimum)



Remember not to cross-contaminate! Cross contamination occurs when staff spread contaminants around the worksite and into their homes by soiled clothing, shoes, and skin contact. Contaminants can be transferred to the items workers touch, sit on or walk on. PPE can act as a barrier against the contaminants and protect the worker, but can also be a vehicle for transmitting contaminants if not used properly! Change gloves, gowns, and masks when soiled or wet. Avoid wearing the same PPE with COVID-19 positive individuals and non-COVID individuals. When reusing PPE, decontaminate with EPA-approved cleaning solutions and store PPE in a breathable, paper or cloth bag.



Cluster COVID-19 positive individuals when possible. This extends the use of PPE as staff can use the same PPE (so long as it's not soiled) for that entire shift.





Other Resources

- ❖ Easy to read one-pagers regarding conservation and re-use of PPE:
<https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/conserving-ppe.html>

- ❖ Short videos regarding conservation and re-use of PPE:
<https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/conserving-ppe.html>