

Advocate Aurora COVID-19 PPE Guidance

Extended Use and Limited Reuse

Overview:

These recommendations provide generalized guidance and the principles of reuse and extended use of PPE and should be applied based on **current site situation level**. We may not be deploying all of these principles in every setting-**please refer to PPE Resource Guide**

Purpose:

- To prevent a shortage or exhaust our supply of N95 respirators, facemasks, and eye protection.
- To ensure that our staff have access to the necessary supplies to perform patient care safely for the duration of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Definitions:

- **Extended use** refers to the practice of wearing the same N95 respirator for repeated encounters with several patients, without removing the respirator between the encounters. Extended should only be implemented when multiple patients are infected, and patients are placed together in dedicated waiting rooms, clinics or hospital units.
 - Eye protection may be left in place with the N95 respirator for extended use.
- **Reuse** refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with patients but removing it ('doffing') between at least some of the encounters. The N95 respirator is stored in between encounters and reused.
 - Re-use of full-face shields will be permitted. Face shields will be dedicated for use by individual healthcare personnel. Disinfection of the face shield will be required between uses.

Guiding Principles:

- **Extended use is preferred over re-use** on the assumption that it is safer for team members to leave their mask and eye protection in place, to reduce the risk of self-contamination through frequent donning and doffing of the same equipment.
- It is appropriate for team members following this extended use guidance to remove PPE during breaks and lunch periods. Mask and faceshield can be stored and reused following break/meals. Gowns and gloves should not be reapplied.
- Facemasks, N95 respirators and eye protection can be re-used in a careful and limited way during periods of short supply. Facemasks that fasten to the provider via ties may not be able to be undone without tearing and should be considered only for extended use, rather than re-use.
- Guidance is for reuse by a single person (no sharing). This principle applies to Facemask & N95 respirators and gowns.
- N95 respirators worn for COVID-19 PUIs may be re-used or worn for extended use, as long as they are covered by face shield during aerosol generating procedure and have not reached the end of their use by being visibly soiled, obviously damaged or wet.

- Limit room traffic where possible by ensuring that only those essential for patient care enter the room; strategies include bundling of care, limiting or avoiding bedside clinical teaching, limiting operating room traffic, and use of telemedicine where possible

Applicability

These guidelines apply to all health care personnel (HCPs) who need to wear respiratory protection during patient care or as a requirement of their work responsibilities.

Guidance for Reuse N95

- N-95 Respirators re-use guidelines apply only to those who have received fit-testing at some time in their employment (OSHA temporarily waived requirement).
- If you have never been fit tested and are using N-95 for Aerosol generating procedure (AGP) or airborne isolation, contact EHS to receive just in time fit testing.
- Extended use or re-use is not recommended
 - if worn during an aerosol generating procedure **unless covered by face shield** during procedure
 - if the N95 respirator has reached the end of its use through being visibly soiled, obviously damaged or wet.
- All supplies of N95 respirators will be stored in locked or secured, designated areas (ex. Unit Manager/Supervisor/Lead Office) and will be issued to staff with a paper bag or container that allows breathability.
- Label paper storage bag with the user's name to prevent reuse by another individual. Label paper storage bag with the user's name/date to prevent reuse by another individual.
- Write name and date of initial use on the bag.

Guidance for Reuse and Extended Use of N95 Respirators with Full Face Shield

- **Instructions for the limited reuse of N95 respirators:** Extended use is preferred over re-use. You can continue to wear the N95 respirator until visibly soiled, wet or damaged. N95 respirators and full-face shield may be removed and stored appropriately for re-use later.
- **Storage of Previously Worn N95 Respirators:**
 - After removing N95 respirators, visually inspect and discard if visibly soiled, obvious damage or wet.
 - The N95 respirators should be stored in a well-ventilated container (i.e., paper bag) with username & date.
 - A disposable N95 respirators can be worn for several hours and multiple shifts if not wet or damaged, and not involved in an aerosol-generating procedure **unless it is covered by face shield.**
- **Process to re-use your N95 respirator:**
 - Remove N95 mask from paper storage bag and visually inspect for obvious damage. If damaged, do not re-use.
- **Donning and doffing** [See Donning and doffing for N95 guide](#)

Guidance for Reuse and Extended Use of Procedure Masks with Full face shield

- Extended use is preferred over re-use. You can continue to wear the procedure mask for your entire shift.
- Mask and faceshield can be stored and reused following break/meals
- When removing Procedure mask, if visibly soiled, wet or damage, discard.
- Mask can be place on clean paper towel external side down, during break/meal.
- Procedure mask can be worn until end of shift, if not wet or damaged, and protected by face shield* (*prevents you from contaminating your face during patient care)

Instructions for the Limited Reuse of Full Face Shields (if available)

- **Reuse of full-face shield**
 - Full face shields are dedicated to individual healthcare personnel as foam piece and elastic head band cannot be adequately disinfected between personnel.
 - Don gloves and adequately disinfect inside then outside surfaces, avoid using germicidal wipe on foam and elastic band.
 - Store reused full face shield in an additional labeled paper bag.
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Guidelines for Extended Use of isolation gowns: Applies to all setting

- Bundle Care activities for COVID19 positive patients as much as possible
- AAH has a variety of isolation gowns (i.e. disposable yellow or blue, and at designated sites, a launderable cloth gown)
- Use Extended Use when caring for multiple cohorted COVID19 positive patients (**in adjacent rooms**).
- You can provide care first to a PUI and then move to an adjacent COVID19 positive patient rooms.
 - Do not walk to the Nurses Station with an Extended Use gown.
 - Only wear Extended use gown between adjacent COVID19 positive patients' area.
 - Do not walk throughout the clinical unit with an Extended Use gown.
 - Do not care for a COVID 19 positive patient and then care for a PUI or other isolation case with an EU gown. (*this prevents movement from COVID19 positive patient to an unknown or negative patient*)
- Doff Extended Use gown after use or if gown is wet, damaged, or soiled.
- Remove during break and lunch.
- Do not store Extended Use gowns for reuse.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/pandemic-planning.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

This document was adapted from Guidance for Extended Use and Reuse of Facemasks, Respirators, and Protective Eyewear, University of Maryland/Nebraska Medicine