

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Conservation Strategy

The PPE you are directed to use depends on the patient population, location, environmental factors, and the care you are providing. By design, you will see different PPE in the same areas, and that should be expected. To keep you safe, PPE standards are being matched to the risk of transmission.

Fit-Tested N95 Respirator

(Use the highest level of protection required by your patient assignment for that day)

- You will be issued one respirator/day (unless contaminated, soiled, or damaged)
 - Wear respirator for as long as possible to reduce number of donning/doffing episodes.
 - Cluster your personal care activities to reduce need for donning/doffing of respirator.
 - Don't touch mask when in place. **Perform hand hygiene if you touch mask.**
 - See Donning/Doffing instructions
- Label mask with your name on a piece of tape secured to an elastic strap
- Your mask must be in place or in a storage option (see below).
 - Not on forehead, elbow, arm, or chin
 - Pull your hair back
- During direct patient care, use face shield over N95 mask
- Storage
 - During shift when respirator not in use, it should be hung on a dedicated IV Pole or be stored in non-coated paper bag (item #00634)
 - Paper bag should be labeled on one side with your name, date, and type of respirator
 - Place respirator in bag with interior of respirator facing up toward labeled side of bag
 - Only place one respirator per bag
 - If hanging, don't allow respirator to touch anything else
 - At end of shift, respirator should be saved (DO NOT THROW AWAY – unless soiled or damaged)
 - Remove respirator from bag or container and neatly stack in designated respirator collection bin, avoiding crushing or otherwise damaging respirator
 - Refer to unit leadership for designated storage location

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(continued)

- DO NOT DISINFECT/CLEAN RESPIRATORS
- Please shave facial hair
 - This will ensure that PAPRs are reserved for those who require this PPE due to inability to use fit tested N95 due to facial structure
- Please DO NOT wear facial makeup
 - This will ensure that we are able to sterilize N95s for reuse

Face Shields

- Face Shield must be reused until broken/damaged/unable to see through
 - Wipe with hospital grade disinfectant, allow appropriate dwell time
 - If visibility is an issue, wipe with dry cloth or alcohol wipe
 - Label face shield with name
 - Do not attempt to clean the foam padding on face shield
- Storage
 - Store shield in safe, dry, location where it will not be damaged.

At this time, please DO NOT reuse masks/respirators for more than one day. We are saving respirators in anticipation of needing to reuse in the future.