

# Guidelines for Safe Use, Re-Use & Extended Use of PPE

The top priorities for your safety and that of our patients is to **conserve and use the right PPE at the right time** so that we have enough for weeks and months to come.

## Eye Protection



Not all eye protection appears the same

- Eye protection may be worn continuously.
- Disinfect face shield or goggles whenever removed, using gloves and approved hospital-grade wipe. Allow surface of eye protection to dry. A film may be left on surface; rinse with a wet paper towel. Dispose if no longer clear, or if cracked, or damaged.

## N95 Respirator



Not all respirators appear the same



Elastomeric respirator

- **User must perform a seal check (see instructions below) upon donning a N95 respirator.**
- N95 respirators are reserved for specific patient care. See PPE guidelines [“What to use and when to use it”](#) for details.
- N95 respirators may be used continuously by the same healthcare worker for multiple patients and is preferred over removal and storage. If removed during the day, N95 may be discarded or stored in a clean, dry paper bag. Perform hand hygiene before and after re-donning.
- Wear a full face shield to reduce N95 contamination.
- Facial hair should be shaved in order to fit an N95 respirator.
- Replace N95 if it becomes contaminated with blood, nasal or respiratory secretions or other body fluids, soiled, damaged, wet and/or hard to breathe.
- Discard the N95 respirator at the end of your shift.
- Elastomeric respirators will be assigned to key individuals and can be worn continuously. Disinfect exterior after each AGP and disinfect interior and exterior at the end of the shift.

**Positive pressure seal check:** Place both hands completely over the respirator without disturbing the position of the mask; ensure no air can enter, exhale forcefully. Air will not leak if the fit is successful.

**Negative pressure seal check:** Inhale quickly while pressing down on the sides of the respirator to prevent air from entering. Pouch style respirators should collapse slightly when negative pressure is created.

## Mask



- Procedure masks may be used continuously by the same healthcare worker for multiple patients.
- Wear a full face shield to reduce mask contamination.
- If procedure mask becomes contaminated, soiled, damaged, torn or wet, it should be disposed of and replaced with a clean mask.
- Masks may not be pulled down and worn below nose/mouth or on forehead.
- Above procedures also apply to ClearMask.

## PAPR



- PAPR use is reserved for aerosol generating procedures for staff who cannot wear an N95.
- PAPR hoods may be worn continuously by the same person for a shift for multiple patients then disinfected and stored in the appropriate location.
- Hood should be replaced if any damage is detected.

## Gown



- Follow contact isolation sign.
- Remove and dispose of gown after each patient's care.
- Take care to not contaminate yourself during gown removal. Perform hand hygiene

**Your safety depends on careful attention to doffing and hand hygiene in particular. Take your time.**