



Coronavirus

N95 MASK PROTOCOL

In order to preserve the current supply of N95 masks, we are mandating that the use of N95 masks be limited to those who are in direct care of the COVID-19 confirmed or suspected patients (exception – other airborne isolation patients). This includes nursing staff, respiratory and those entering the room to care for the patient. Others who visit the unit for various reasons but do not enter the patient's room do not need to apply an N95 mask.

Units caring for COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases:

Please limit the number of individuals entering the room to those who are necessary for care to decrease use of masks.

Extended use may be implemented when multiple patients are infected with the same respiratory pathogen and cohorted in the same unit.

Extended use refers to the practice of wearing the same N95 respirator with several patients, without removing. Staff should minimize the unnecessary contact with the respirator surface, follow strict adherence to hand hygiene practices, and proper donning and doffing technique.

Extended Use

1. Mask must continue to maintain its shape and function.
2. Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures.
3. Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.
4. Consider use of a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator and/or other steps (i.e., masking patients, or use of negative pressure) to reduce surface contamination.
5. Perform hand hygiene with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the respirator if necessary for comfort or to maintain fit.

Reuse of N95 Mask

1. Always perform hand hygiene prior to donning PPE.
2. Don full PPE utilizing gown, gloves, eye protection and N95 masks.
3. Provide care for patient.
4. Remove gloves in patient room, discard and perform hand hygiene. Gown may be reused unless soiled.
5. Exit room and continue to use N95 in next encounter or remove mask by utilizing straps and place in a bag labeled with name. Store bag with PPE caddy or near patient room.
6. Perform proper hand hygiene.