

PPE Expected Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: April 16, 2020

Purpose:

To provide health care workers (HCW) with appropriate protections to avoid exposure to SARS-CoV-2 by using gowns, gloves, face shields or goggles, and appropriate respiratory protections during patient care activities.

Definition

PUI – Person Under Investigation with symptoms of possible SARS-CoV-2 infection

SARS-CoV-2 – the virus causing COVID-19 disease

HCW- Healthcare Worker

Respiratory Precautions Procedure

N95 Respirator use required with airborne precautions

N95 respirators are indicated based on procedures that aerosolize (AGP) which include patients that are PUIs or COVID-19 positive receiving the following procedures:

- Intubation procedures
- Bronchoscopy
- High-flow oxygen nasal canula (airflow delivered at 40-60LPM)
- BiPAP/CPAP
- Sputum Induction
- Nebulized treatment
- CPR

CAPR/PAPRs are also acceptable in place of N95 and face shields. There is no specific data that a CAPR/PAPR provides better protection.

In addition, N95 respirators are recommend for HCWs out of abundance of caution in some situations. The following table is not meant to be fully inclusive of non PUI/COVID-19 patients but does include common situations that may arise during the pandemic. If a situation is not listed, please consult your local Infection Prevention and Control policies for further guidance.

Employees must:

- Continue proper hand hygiene, i.e., before and after entering the patient care environment.
- Continue to wear a DHS provided mask when performing their job duties in a clinical care area.

Employees will NOT:

- Place a surgical mask over N95 respirator, as this may damage the mask or break the seal leading to increased risk for the HCW wearing N95

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Guidance for PPE for Workforce Members

Clinical Scenario	N95 (or equivalent) vs other	Risk for COVID-19 Exposure	Reuse or Extended Use	Other PPE
NP or OP sample collection for SARS-CoV-2 testing	Surgical mask	Low risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
NP Washes for SARS-CoV-2 testing (Not for routine testing and should only be done as part of specialized protocols) *Neg pressure room if available	N95	High to moderate risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Aerosol Generating Procedures as detailed above in COVID-19 Positive patient or PUI *Neg pressure room when possible	N95	High risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Patients requiring ICU care regardless of location – PUI/COVID positive	N95	Moderate risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Patients requiring ICU care regardless of location – not PUI/COVID	N95 recommended	Moderate to Low Risk	Yes ¹ , unless patient in contact isolation	As dictated by underlying conditions
Step-Down/Ward PUI/COVID positive	Surgical mask but N95 acceptable	Low Risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Step-Down/Ward – not PUI/COVID	Surgical mask recommended	Low risk	Yes ²	As dictated by underlying conditions

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Clinical Scenario	N95 (or equivalent) vs other	Risk for COVID-19 Exposure	Reuse or Extended Use	Other PPE
HCW that cannot maintain social distancing from patient or other HCW in hospital or clinic setting but not direct patient care	Surgical mask recommended	Low risk	Yes ²	As dictated by underlying conditions
Airborne Precautions for things other than PUI/COVID positive (Measles, TB, etc.)	N95	High risk	Yes ¹	As dictated by underlying conditions
Airway management teams and/or Rapid response teams – PUI/COVID positive *Neg pressure room when possible	N95	High risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Intubations in OR/ED or elsewhere – PUI/COVID positive *Neg pressure room when possible	N95	High risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap – in OR only
Intubations in OR/ED or elsewhere - not PUI/COVID Can use negative pressure room when feasible	N95 recommended	Moderate risk	Yes ¹	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap – in OR only
Airway procedures (including endoscopies) or thoracic surgery	N95 recommended	Moderate to High risk	Yes ¹ , unless PUI/COVID positive then discard	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap – in OR only

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Nonclinical workforce member in clinical areas with direct patient interactions (e.g. registration, PFS, EVS, clerical) outside of above	Surgical mask recommended	Low risk	Yes ²	As dictated by job duties in clinical areas
IR procedures				
IR Procedures that generate aerosols: lung biopsy, lung ablation, bronchial stenting, and bronchial artery embolization – regardless of PUI/COVID status	N95	High risk	Yes ¹ , unless PUI/COVID positive or contact isolation then discard	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap – if required by procedure
All other IR procedure – PUI/COVID positive	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap – if required by procedure
All other IR procedure – not PUI/COVID negative	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	Yes ²	PPE as per procedure
Ambulatory Care Setting				
Evaluation Outdoors - PUI/COVID positive	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	Yes ²	Keep 6 feet away from patient
Evaluation in room - PUI/COVID positive	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Closed toed shoes

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Evaluation in room – not PUI/COVID	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	Yes ²	None
Special Situations				
L&D triage if social distancing of 6 feet cannot be obtained (patient and visitors should also be masked when possible)	Surgical mask	Low risk	Yes ²	None
L&D triage screen positive for fever and cough, or unexplained fever and direct patient contact with <6 feet	Surgical mask	Low risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
Vaginal Deliveries regardless of PUI/COVID status	Surgical Mask	Low Risk	No	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles
C-sections given risk of possible intubation regardless of PUI/COVID status	N95	High risk or Low risk	Yes ¹ , unless PUI/COVID positive or in contact isolation then discard	Gown Gloves Face shield or goggles Surgical cap
Quarantined unit of PUIs in Correctional Facility	Surgical Mask	Low risk	Yes ³	Gown, Gloves Face shield or goggles if within 6 feet of PUI
Other Workforce Members				
Workforce members who are <u>not performing patient care</u> (e.g. staff working in a call center, HR, Administration, etc.)	Made of cloth, “homemade,” self-purchased or privately-owned masks	Low risk	Yes ⁴	None

¹Reuse of N95 respirator as per Policy

²May extend use for duration of shift if not soiled/damaged and patient not in contact isolation

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³May use for duration of time in the unit, then discarded

⁴Launder regularly

N95 Respirator reuse policy

- Continue the reuse policy as documented in [COVID-19 Respiratory Protections document²](#) as summarized here for non COVID-19 positive or PUI patients. When N95 are reused, the HCP must:
 - Follow the manufacturer's user instructions, including conducting a user seal check prior to every use.
 - Redonning up to five times in a single shift, then must discard in trash.
 - Inspect N95 for damage and integrity, do not use if impaired.
 - Store used N95 in a breathable bag or container to be used by a single wearer.