BILH INTERIM PPE REUSE & EXTENDED USE FOR INPATIENT COVID-19 UNITS, ED-BASED COVID-19 EVALUATION UNITS, URGENT CARE, L&D TRIAGE, & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

This procedure covers all care delivery in inpatient and ED-based ILI/COVID-19 respiratory evaluation units, urgent care units, and emergency departments where increased personal protective equipment (PPE) is indicated for provider protection and streamlining of care. Reuse of PPE is approved for a single provider and for multiple patients on a unit.

**Notes**

—This guidance applies to the care of ALL patients in these patient units
—Strict attention to hand hygiene and avoiding touching your mask/face is critical in preventing self-contamination
—See N95 reuse protocol for specifics of procedure to don and doff reused respirator
—See Surgical Mask reuse protocol for specifics of procedure to don and doff reused mask

In order to provide enhanced protection for staff in areas where there are large numbers of patients located in the same patient care area being evaluated for respiratory viral illness or where patients present with as of yet unknown risk of COVID-19, ALL patient care staff in these areas are to wear respiratory protection (surgical mask or N95 respirator) for their entire shift.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Surgical Mask</th>
<th>N95</th>
<th>Eye Protection</th>
<th>Gown</th>
<th>Caps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extended Use</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
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<td>Reuse</td>
<td>Repeat don/doff of a piece of PPE for one shift or longer</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surgical Masks

- Masks must be worn continuously, unless moist or visibly soiled, for an entire shift
- Masks may only be removed to replace with an N95 respirator or to eat a meal, after which it should be replaced
- When removed during a shift, place into a plastic bag using the Surgical Mask reuse protocol each time
Surgical masks should be discarded into the collection container (bag or bin) at the end of your shift for potential future disinfection

**N95 Respirators**

- Use the Surgical Mask Reuse protocol to remove your mask and then replace with an N95 respirator using the [N95 reuse protocol](#).
- After exiting the patient’s room, if an N95 will be needed for care of the next patient, the respirator may be left in place.
- If exiting the room and the N95 will be removed, please refer to the procedure for storage of your respirator in the [N95 reuse protocol](#).
- **N95 can be reused for three (3) shifts** until it is deformed, moist, or does not produce an adequate seal. When discarding, place into designated collection container (bag or bin) for potential future disinfection.
- Cover N95 with a face shield or surgical mask when caring for patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19.

**Eye protection**

- **Eye protection (preferably full face shield) should be worn for all care of patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19**.
- Eye protection may be left in place as long as tolerated.
- Remove eye protection when eating a meal or leaving the unit.
- To remove, perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves.
- After removal, face/eye shields, goggles and visors should be wiped with standard hospital disinfectant between patients, if soiled.
- Alcohol wipes can remove streaking from disinfectant in order to improve visibility.
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

**Gowns**

- In the Respiratory Evaluation Units, COVID-19 units, Emergency Department and Urgent Care, each provider should wear the same gown for as long as possible, ideally the entire shift.
- See the [Gown reuse procedure](#) for more details.
- When doffing, use either the standard gown doffing procedure for either laundered or disposable gowns to avoid self-contamination, discarding into the dirty laundry hamper.
- Perform thorough hand hygiene while wearing gown and when doffing.
- Perform patient care as usual, adhering to Standard Precautions.
**Bouffant Caps**
- When performing aerosol-generating procedures, use a bouffant cap either covering the mask or respirator straps, or prior to donning
- Once donned, bouffant cap should be worn for the entire shift until it either becomes visibly soiled or the provider exits the unit
- Discard bouffant cap into the regular trash at the end of the shift

**Gloves (no reuse)**
- Gloves should be removed between patients with performance of meticulous hand hygiene
- Gloves should be changed as needed during patient care using Standard Precautions

**For Drive-thru Respiratory Testing Sites:**
- Use the same mask, eye protection, gown and bouffant cap until visibly soiled
- Change gloves and perform hand hygiene between each patient