

BILH INTERIM PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) GUIDELINE

Updated 5/13/22
Infection Control

This guideline covers care delivery in all patient care areas.

- **PPE** is used to protect healthcare personnel from exposure to infectious organisms as part of transmission-based precautions and as protection from contamination (e.g., splash and spray during procedures), as part of Standard Precautions
- Note that masks may also be used as part of [universal masking strategies](#) to prevent transmission of respiratory secretions from the wearer’s nose and mouth to those around them.

****Notes****

- *Strict attention to hand hygiene and avoiding touching your mask/face is critical in preventing self-contamination*
- *PPE from home is not permitted. All PPE will be provided by BILH (with the exception of prescription eye protection after review with your local safety officer)*

Guidance for Extended Use and Reuse of PPE

	Definition	Surgical Mask	Disposable N95	Reusable N95	Eye Protection	Gown
Extended Use	Wearing a piece of PPE for as long as tolerated or until visibly soiled	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Reuse	Repeat don/doff of a piece of PPE for one shift	No <i>(unless only partially removed as below)</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No

Surgical Masks

- **Masks must be worn continuously for the entire shift in all settings**, except when in areas in which patients do not travel (e.g., break rooms, conference rooms, offices). See [BILH Guidance on Masking, Meetings and Gatherings](#) for details.
- **Masks should not be stored or put down on a surface, if worn in a patient care area**
- If removed partially (e.g., taken off one ear to take a sip of water in a designated area) or if held by the ear loop, the mask can be reused
- **If removed and put down on a surface, the mask should be discarded**
- Extended use of surgical masks is permitted for care/room entry of sequential patients continuously until removed, regardless of patient diagnosis or isolation precautions
- Masks should be discarded and replaced at any time if moist, torn or visibly soiled

Reusable Respirators (including envo® mask, 3M elastomeric respirators and MSAs)

- Reusable respirators should be the first choice of respiratory protection when a respirator is required
- MSA and 3M elastomeric respirators (with exhalation valve cover) do not need a covering surgical mask
- envo® masks should be covered with a new surgical mask due to an exhalation valve
- After exiting the patient's room, if a respirator will be needed for care of the next patient, the respirator may be left in place (*extended use*)
 - When performing extended use, perform a seal check before every room entry to ensure continued appropriate fit and adjust as necessary
 - MSA elastomeric respirators may develop condensation inside the mask during extended use due to the absence of an exhalation valve. If so, remove the mask and wipe the inside of the mask dry prior to performing cleaning and disinfection.
- If exiting the room and the respirator will be removed, please refer to the procedure for disinfection and storage of your respirator in the appropriate protocol:
 - [MSA Elastomeric Respirator Training – One Page Handout](#)
 - [3M Elastomeric Respirator Training – One-Page Handout](#)
 - [ENVO Mask Respirator Training – One-Page Handout](#)

N95 Disposable Respirators (no reuse)

- Extended use of disposable N95 respirators is permitted for care/room entry of sequential patients continuously until removed, regardless of patient diagnosis or isolation precautions
 - When performing extended use, perform a seal check before every room entry to ensure continued appropriate fit and adjust as necessary
- Disposable N95 respirators should not be reused (i.e., do not store in a bag or container for future use)
- Disposable N95s should be discarded and replaced at any time if moist, torn or visibly soiled

Eye Protection

- Eye protection is required for ALL routine patient care or entry into patient's room/bedspace, regardless of the patient's COVID-19 status or the HCP or patient vaccination status
- Eye protection may be worn continuously for the care of multiple patients but should be disinfected whenever removed (reusable) or discarded (disposable)
- See [Eye Protection Reuse Procedure](#) for information on cleaning and disinfection

Gowns (no reuse)

- See [Sequence of PPE Don/Doff Procedure](#) for donning and removal by gown type
- Gowns should be discarded after the care of each patient into either the laundry bin (laundered gowns) or trash (disposable gowns), as appropriate

Gloves (no reuse)

- Gloves should be removed between patients followed by performance of meticulous hand hygiene
- Gloves should be changed as needed during patient care using Standard Precautions