



## Allina Health PPE Conservation Guide for PUI/COVID patients - Hospital

Updated 3/26/2020

1. Overall conservation efforts
  - a. Minimize staff entering PUI/COVID rooms to 1 provider and 1 RN.
    - i. Utilize phone interviews and telehealth options where appropriate
  - b. Minimize use of ancillary support services for all PUI/COVID patients.
    - i. Limit lab draws, off unit testing and non-urgent imaging
  - c. Follow uninterrupted use and reuse of PPE.
    - i. Use ear loop droplet mask, respirators and eye protection for an entire shift unless integrity is not intact
      1. Wear a full faceshield over the ear loop droplet mask or respirator when available to allow for uninterrupted use and reuse
    - ii. Eye protection should be disinfected and used until the integrity is no longer intact
    - iii. Reuse CAPR shields and PAPR hoods
2. Specific PPE re-use guidelines
  - a. Ear loop droplet masks including use of substitute masks
    - i. [Follow uninterrupted mask use guidelines](#)
    - ii. Form the mask over the nose and extend under the chin
    - iii. May wear the same mask from patient to patient
    - iv. Discard mask ONLY if soiled, damaged, becomes moist or hard to breathe through or when removed from your face
    - v. Do not store ear loop droplet mask or respirator in pocket when not in use
    - vi. **If you touch/adjust the mask, perform hand hygiene immediately**
  - b. Respirators
    - i. N95s
      1. Always wear a full faceshield over the N95 to avoid contaminating it
      2. In areas of high volume suspect cases (ie: ED, cohort units), you may wear the same N95 for different patients without removing the N95 and full faceshield between patient encounters
      3. All other areas can remove the N95 and full faceshield between patient encounters
      4. **Only discard the N95 if contaminated, obviously damaged, hard to breathe through or if it fails the fit check process**
      5. Use paper bag to store N95 between uses to minimize contamination and maintain integrity. Label the paper bag with your name. Straps should not lie within the respirator when stored. Paper bags should be replaced when getting a new N95 or when damaged (do not store N95 in any other way, i.e. in an envelope).
      6. If you touch or adjust the N95, perform hand hygiene
      7. Avoid touching the inside of the N95
      8. [Follow the Reuse and Uninterrupted Use of N95 Respirators Procedure](#)
      9. Perform hand hygiene immediately after donning a used N95 and performing a seal check