



PPE as of 23 March, 2020

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**Truncated version for website*



Definitions

- Definitions

- “Procedure mask” = droplet mask = surgical mask = earloop mask
- “respirator” = N95 mask
- “Expired N95” —one of several models of N95 masks that we had in storage
 - Confusing because you were directed to use these as a “procedure mask”
 - We have moved to using these as a “respirator”





Basics: Recommendations



- COVID 19 positive or PUI without aerosolizing procedures
 - ENHANCED DROPLET
 - “Procedure mask” either ear loop or “expired” N95 used as droplet mask
 - Full face shield
 - Could use mask with attached face shield instead of first two but that is disposable
 - Goggles + procedure mask is an alternative to face shield + procedure mask
 - Gown and Gloves
- COVID 19 positive with aerosolizing procedures
 - ENHANCED AIRBORNE
 - N95 mask (after fit testing) or CAPR or PAPR
 - Full Face shield if using N95
 - Gown and gloves

Aerosolizing procedures

The following activities require use of Airborne and Contact Precautions with eye protection and should be performed in an Airborne Infection Isolation room (negative pressure room), if available.

- Sputum induction
- Open suctioning of the respiratory tract (not using in-line suction catheter)
- Bronchoscopy or EBUS
- Ambu Bag resuscitation
- Intubation/Extubation
- Nebulizer treatments* 
- CPR
- BIPAP 
- CPAP

The following activities are NOT considered aerosol generating and can be performed by staff using Droplet and Contact precautions with eye protection in a standard patient room.

- NP swab collection 
- Intra-nasal medication administration
- Nasogastric tube (NGT) placement
- Chest Physiotherapy
- High flow oxygen by nasal route or face mask 
- TEE or other endoscopy



Expired N95

- The box will say “use as a mask not as a respirator”
- They have been tested and are effective as a “respirator”
- Use as a “respirator” if you have been fit tested on that model
- Use (with face shield) as long as it is intact and you can breathe through it
 - Don’t write on the mask. Put some tape on the elastic.
 - Store in a brown bag



ReUse

- Mask with attached face shield: discharge when wet or removed from face
- Face shield: disinfect with oxivir until shield breaks or vision through shield is compromised
- Goggles or safety glasses: disinfect and reuse until they break or vision is impaired.
- Expired N95 Can reuse only if used with face shield and if donning and doffing requirements followed
 - Not currently acceptable to attempt to sterilize with UV light or with chemical disinfectants
- N95 used as respirator: Can reuse only if used with face shield and if donning and doffing requirements followed
 - Not currently acceptable to attempt to sterilize with UV light or with chemical disinfectants
- CAPR, PAPR: disinfect and reuse until hood breaks or vision impaired.



Specific issues re N95 reuse

- Re use only if used with full face shield
 - No recommendation about putting a procedure mask on over an N95
 - So if you use N95 + goggles, you cannot reuse N95
 - So Don't
- No current recommendations about reesterilization
 - With UV light
 - With chemical disinfectants
 - So don't try it.



“Uninterrupted Use”

- Can leave N95 or procedure mask and leave face shield on between patients in enhanced droplet or enhanced airborne
- In ED procedure mask on all the time (with face shield in patient rooms in enhanced droplet)



Two other questions

- Scrubs?
 - No official statement
 - Not necessary; IDs mostly not wearing them
- Procedure masks all day long?
 - No move to that now
 - Incident command aware that HCMC and hospitals on East Coast are doing it
 - Obviously have to weigh supply vs effectiveness
 - Wait til there is an official Allina plan



How about removal from Enhanced Droplet or Enhanced Airborne?

- Allina statement to be issued today
- To remove from precautions before COVID test back because an alternative explanation for respiratory symptoms. Requires agreement of
 - Attending physician
 - Infectious disease consultant
 - Infection prevention
 - Nurse manager (or nurse supervisor or house supervisor)