

Ventura County Helathcare Agency COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Isolation Precautions

PPE worn by AC staff/providers shall be standardized. There are no differences to PPE recommendations for those that have recovered from COVID-19 or been vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 given uncertainty as to the duration of immunity to SARS-CoV-2, risk of reinfections from SARS-CoV-2, or potential to become infectious to others if re-exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

As of June 2022, PPE re-use, which refers to doffing PPE & storing it in a clean dry place, is no longer permitted.

When working in clinical or non-clinical environments where staff duties do not involve direct physical contact with patients:

○ **Follow Universal Mask Guidelines for Source Control**

- **Procedural Mask or N95 Respirator - Extended Use.** Universal masking required for all staff. Mask to be worn at all times unless working alone in a private office without direct or indirect contact with patients or other staff. When used solely for source control, a well-fitting facemask or N95 may be used until it becomes soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through. It should be immediately discarded after removal. Do NOT store for re-use once removed. N95 may be required by Employee Health Services for source control during high-risk monitoring period following known COVID-19 exposure.
- **Face Shield/Goggles- Extended Use/Re-Use.** Eye protection is also strongly recommended for unvaccinated staff to reduce potential for high-risk exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in the workplace. Discard or clean eye protection with approved disinfecting wipe whenever removed or visibly soiled.

When (1) Providing direct clinical care to patients **without respiratory symptoms** who are **not known or suspected to have COVID-19**. (2) Performing exams and non-aerosol generating procedures that **DO NOT** require HCP to be within 6 ft. of unmasked patient for cumulative total of ≥ 15 min.

○ **Follow Universal Mask Guidelines + Standard Precautions + Droplet/Contact/Enteric Precautions if Indicated**

- **Procedural Mask- Extended Use.** Mask required for all direct patient encounters. When used solely for source control, a well-fitting facemask may be used until it becomes soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through. It should be immediately discarded after removal. Do NOT store for re-use once removed.
- **Gown & Gloves- Single Use.** Only required if indicated for isolation precautions or patient care activities. Discard after each patient encounter.
- **Face Shield/Goggles- Extended Use/Re-Use.** Eye protection is recommended for all direct patient encounters. Clean reusable eye protection with hospital-approved disinfecting wipes if soiled and at the end of the day. Discard if damaged. Disposable eye protection should be removed and discarded after each use.
- **N95 Respirator- Extended Use.** When providing care that does not involve an AGP to asymptomatic patients who are not under investigation for SARS-CoV-2, use of an N95 is not required but may be worn at the discretion of the provider. When used solely for source control, an N95 may be used until it becomes soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through. It should be immediately discarded after removal. Do NOT store for re-use once removed. Immediately discard after each patient encounter when performing an AGP or providing care for which a respirator is indicated for PPE.

When (1) Providing direct clinical care to patients **with confirmed or suspected COVID-19** and patients **with symptoms of respiratory illness** but not a PUI for COVID-19. (2) Performing aerosol generating procedures (AGP) of any duration (e.g., nebulizer therapy and some dental procedures)^{1,2}. (3) Performing prolonged³ examination or procedure involving the nose, throat, or mouth, or any patient encounter that **requires HCP to be within 6 ft. of unmasked patient for cumulative total of ≥ 15 min.** (includes retinal scans and non-AGP's such as dental varnish). (5) Conducting **serial screening at testing sites.**

○ **Follow Novel Respiratory Isolation Precautions**

- **Gown & Gloves- Single Use.** Discard after each patient encounter.
- **Face Shield/Goggles- Extended Use/Re-Use.** Eye protection is required for all direct patient encounters. Goggles that fit close to the face, with minimal gaps, are the preferred eye protection for patients undergoing AGP. Reusable eye protection should be cleaned and disinfected after each patient encounter or discarded if damaged. Disposable eye protection should be removed and discarded after each use.
- **N95 Respirator- Single Use/Extended Use in Select Locations.** Respirator use required for all patient encounters. Discard on room exit after each patient encounter. Unless performing an AGP, extended use of respirators may be considered in select locations, such as Emergency Departments, Urgent Cares & Serial Testing Sites, when sequentially caring for a large volume of patients with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2. Immediately discard after any Aerosol Generating Procedure. In all circumstances, the N95 must be discarded once it has been removed. Do NOT store for re-use.

¹Aerosol generating procedures (AGP) should be avoided in favor of non-aerosol generating treatment modalities (i.e. metered dose inhaler should be used instead of nebulizer treatment) unless no other clinically appropriate option is available

²Aerosol generating procedures such as nebulizer treatments can be performed outside if absolutely necessary in the absence of a negative-pressure room

³Prolonged is defined as cumulative total of ≥15 minutes over a 24-hour period. Any duration should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurs during an AGP