



PPE Recommendation and Instruction



updated 04/01/20

Beginning Thursday, April 2, Intermountain asks all caregivers to begin following these updated recommendations for wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and to work as teams to ensure these modifications are implemented throughout our facilities. We're implementing them now in anticipation of broader community spread of COVID-19 and to protect our caregivers when patients or visitors with COVID-19 present before they're symptomatic.



1. Wear a procedural/surgical mask & face shield (or eye protection) if you work with patients or visitors. All caregivers who are patient-or visitor-facing will wear a procedural mask (not N95) and face shield (as available) at work each day. Please practice extended use guidelines and wear it for the duration of your shift unless it becomes wet or soiled. At the end of your shift, remove the procedural mask using the ear loops, discard safely, and wash your hands. Disinfect your face shield and store it in your department's designated location. Caregivers in visitor-facing roles should stay six feet away from visitors, or use plexiglass shielding as an alternative to face shields.

Job Aid: [What PPE should you wear?](#)



Avoid removing your procedural/surgical mask during your shift.

- If you must remove the mask, remove your gloves and wash your hands prior to removal.
- Then, using the ear loops, remove your mask and fold so the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact outer surfaces during storage. Place it in a paper bag labeled with your name, and wash your hands again. Before putting your mask back on, wash your hands, place the mask using only the ear loops, adjust the mask, and wash your hands before donning fresh gloves.
- Follow this procedure when you go on break to eat.



2. Caring for COVID-19 positive or test-pending patients.

Caregivers should wear contact/droplet precautions, including gown, gloves, procedural mask, and eye protection or face shield when providing direct care at the bedside, or working within six feet of **any patients tested (pending or positive) for COVID-19.**



3. Aerosol-Generating Procedures (AGP) for all patients

Caregivers should wear contact/airborne precautions, including gown, gloves, PAPR (first choice) or N95 respirator and face shield (second choice) when performing an AGP on **any patient** (and for an hour after the procedure). At the end of your shift, or at one hour post AGP, remove your N95 respirator and place it in a paper bag, labeled with your name and store in your department. If your department is enrolled in the N95 respirator reprocessing trial, the respirator will be collected to be reprocessed. **Job Aid: [N95 Reuse](#)**

NOTE: If the patient is in contact/droplet precautions and has an AGP, the caregiver should follow the same removal instructions as in item #1 prior to using the PAPR or N95 respirator.



4. N95 respirator distribution

First responders and direct patient caregivers in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Labor and Delivery, MedSurg, Operating Room, and InstaCare locations will be given an N95 respirator to be used in emergencies or code situations. Fit testing will be completed in 1-2 weeks. The N95 respirator should be removed at end of each shift and placed in paper bag, labeled with your name and stored in your department. If your department is enrolled in the reprocessing trial, the respirator will be collected to be reprocessed. The respirator can be used safely for two weeks if needed prior to disinfection. However, if the respirator becomes wet or soiled, it should be discarded.



5. Conserve PPE

All caregivers should practice extended use for procedural masks and reuse standards for N95/face shields.

For additional PPE information/recommendation, visit the [COVID-19 PPE toolkit](#) located on [Intermountain.net](#)