

**Strategies for conserving PPE**

- When evaluating patients with concern for coronavirus, providers should wear a surgical mask, gown, gloves, and eye protection. N95 masks should **only** be used for aerosolizing procedures for coronavirus patients (such as nebulization, NIPPV, and intubation) or with patients that require Venturi masks for oxygen supplementation. This is a WHO and CDC recommendation. Some procedures (nebulization, NIPPV) should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.
  - When possible, concentrate patient care activities to minimize sets of PPE needed. For example, take vital signs and give medications at the same time to use one set of PPE instead of returning a second time and using a second set of PPE.
  - Minimizing people in an isolation area or for a patient needing PPE to the caregivers involved in direct care of those patients. For example:
    - For patient rounds, consider only having the direct caregivers interact with the patient rather than members of the team responsible for the care of other patients.
    - On any single day, try to have a dedicated set of caregivers for an isolation area, and another set for a non-isolation area, instead of a larger number of caregivers that work in both.
- 6 Limit the number of observers and non-essential personnel in operating rooms to reduce the use of masks and gowns.
- 7 As needed, consider the extended use of masks between patients (meaning that the mask is not removed between patients but stays on a provider's face continuously). These strategies are being used at many hospitals, including many in the United States. CDC guidelines for extended use (including when the mask should be changed) can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/contingency-capacity-strategies.html>
- 8 Eye protection can be cleaned with a bleach solution and reused between patients.
- 9 To ensure that global PPE shortages do not negatively impact care of any kind of patient (including TB patients and surgical patients), it is important to conserve the use of PPE in all clinical areas.

**Please note none of these suggestions should detract from patient care. The safety of staff and patients is always the top priority!**