

Strategies to Optimize the Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When Caring for Individuals with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection



Eye Protection

Conventional:

- *Use eye protection consistent with local/state/federal requirements

Contingency:

- *Dedicate eyewear to staff; re-use and clean with EPA approved solutions whenever soiled

Crisis:

- *Prioritize eyewear for activities where splashes or sprays are anticipated or close-contact activities with a potentially infectious individual



Gowns

Conventional:

- *Nonsterile, disposable patient isolation gowns are appropriate for use when caring for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Contingency:

- *Re-use washable gowns/coveralls

Crisis:

- *Extend use of disposable gowns
- *Re-use cloth gowns



Facemasks

Conventional:

- *Use facemasks consistent with local/state/federal requirements
- *Surgical masks to protect against splashes/sprays/exposures

Contingency:

- *Implement extended use of facemasks
- *Restrict facemasks to caregivers, rather than individuals

Crisis:

- *Implement limited re-use of facemasks



Other Considerations:

- *When supplies allow, use N95 respirators only for caregivers/staff who need protection from both airborne and fluid hazards

- *Use masks not evaluated or approved by NIOSH or homemade masks as a last resort

- *Limit gown use to activities such as, bathing/showering, transferring, providing hygiene, changing linens, changing briefs or assisting with toileting, device care or use, or wound care

Source: Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>)