

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Conservation Strategy

The PPE you are directed to use depends on the patient population, location, environmental factors, and the care you are providing. By design, you will see different PPE in the same areas, and that should be expected. To keep you safe, PPE standards are being matched to the risk of transmission.

### **Fit-Tested N95 and Universal N95 Respirators**

(Use the highest level of protection required by your patient assignment for that day)

- You will be issued one respirator/day (unless contaminated, soiled, or damaged)
  - Wear respirator for as long as possible to reduce number of donning/doffing episodes.
  - Cluster your personal care activities to reduce need for donning/doffing of respirator.
  - Don't touch mask when in place. **Perform hand hygiene if you touch mask.**
  - See Donning/Doffing instructions
- Label mask with your name on a piece of tape secured to an elastic strap
- Your mask must be in place or in a storage option (see below).
  - Not on forehead, elbow, arm, or chin
  - Pull your hair back
- During direct patient care, use face shield or fluid shield
  - If face shield/fluid shield is unavailable, use goggles and cover respirator with procedure mask
- Storage
  - During shift when respirator not in use, it should be hung on a dedicated IV Pole or be stored in non-coated paper bag (item #00634)
    - Paper bag should be labeled on one side with your name, date, and type of respirator (universal N95 or fit tested N95)
    - Place respirator in bag with interior of respirator facing up toward labeled side of bag
    - Only place one respirator per bag
    - If hanging, don't allow respirator to touch anything else
  - At end of shift, respirator should be saved (DO NOT THROW AWAY –unless soiled or damaged)
    - Place mask in non-coated paper bag labeled with your name, date, and type of mask (universal N95 or fit tested N95)
    - Store bag in safe, dry, location where it will not be damaged/crushed.
    - Refer to unit leadership for designated storage location
- DO NOT DISINFECT/CLEAN RESPIRATORS

### **Face Shields**

- Face Shield must be reused until broken/damaged/unable to see through
  - Wipe with Oxivir, allow 1 min dwell time
  - If visibility is an issue, wipe with dry cloth or alcohol wipe
  - Label face shield with name
  - Do not attempt to clean the foam padding on face shield
- Storage
  - Store shield in safe, dry, location where it will not be damaged.

At this time, please DO NOT reuse masks for more than one day. We are saving masks in anticipation of needing to reuse in the future.