

COVID-19: Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Consensus Statement from the Intercorporate COVID-19 Collaboration Group

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As we care for patients and contain the spread of the coronavirus, our continued collaboration and communication remains paramount. It is our responsibility to make sure all of those on the front lines are safe and have access to the resources they need to care for our communities.

With more clinicians across the nation being exposed, quarantined and even ill from COVID-19, we are advising our teams to take additional precautionary measures. Now that the coronavirus is exhibiting broader community spread, many of those exposures have occurred after a non-PUI patient subsequently tests positive for COVID-19. That has resulted in rising provider quarantines and exposures. As such our organization has recommended the following:

- Wear a surgical/procedure face mask and eye protection (face shield or goggles) for all routine (non-aerosol generating) patient encounters if available
- Implement strict screening protocols **outside the hospital doors** to limit exposure to healthcare workers and other patients
- Wear a mask for the entire shift unless it becomes wet, torn, or soiled
- Wear a higher level of PPE (e.g., an N95 mask) for aerosol-generating procedures such as intubation, extubation, suctioning, etc. for undifferentiated respiratory failure patient
- Clean plastic face shields and eye protection periodically and reuse after cleaning
- Discard disposable face masks if a patient coughs or sneezes on the provider or If the clinician comes in contact with a high risk COVID19 patient
- Wash hands before and after donning or doffing your mask/protective eyewear

We recognize the nationwide shortage of PPE and are trying to secure additional supplies for our teams. We must do everything possible, however, to ensure our healthcare workers are safe from harm.

In times like these, we must lift one another up. We are in this challenge together, and we will come out of it stronger for our teams and our communities. Thank you for your ongoing support.

