



PPE Conservation Best Practices Guideline – A guidance tool for organizations

Organization:

Best Practice	Actions Taken	Next Steps
1. Assess your existing supply of N95 and other PPE and gather and secure it from visitor and public areas.		
2. Centralize distribution of N95 respirators (treat like narcotics). Distribute only according to the OH Guidelines.		
3. Limit number of patients going to hospital or outpatient settings for non-urgent care. - Virtual visits. - Drive thru COVID Screening		
4. Minimize contact with patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID 19. - Restrict healthcare workers entering rooms to only those involved in direct care. - Assess what other staff/allied health could be restricted. - Minimize inpatient consults. - Consider virtual inpatient consult options. - Maximize trans-disciplinary approach (if one worker has to enter room for one reason, have them enter for another reason as well. - Caregivers should cluster tasks to reduce # of times they visit. - Other strategies; ex. Move infusion pumps outside patient rooms to manage alarms without having to enter room.		
5. Alter care processes to minimize possible COVID-19 patient contact to as few providers as possible, with a little time in the hospital as possible. Ex. Low risk patients, triage and send back to wait in cars to have a phone consult, re-entry if face-to-face assessment required.		
6. Cohort patients with confirmed COVID-19 in the same room/unit.		

7. Assign a specialized team to care for cohort of suspected/confirmed cases.		
8. Severely limit visitors to rooms/areas with patients suspected/confirmed COVID-19		
9. Remove droplet/contact precautions as quickly as appropriately possible. - Check Connecting Ontario or OLIS for results. - Contact infection control in a timely manner and prior to discontinuing precautions.		
10. N95 Respirator Training - Use N95 beyond the manufacturers designated shelf life for fit testing if necessary in the context of inadequate supply of non-expired product. - Limit use of N95 during mask fit testing to key staff. - Use your testing mask for patient care.		
11. Educate staff on the indications for use of N95 respirators in the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.		
12. Audit the use of PPE in your organization. Leadership rounds, key messages, address variability observed in practice, reinforce key messages.		
13. Extend use of facemasks by wearing the same facemask for repeated close contact encounters with several patients without removing in between.		
14. Extend use of eye protection by wearing the same eye protection for repeated encounters with different patients without removing in between.		
15. Extend use of isolation gown by wearing for repeated encounters with different COVID patients. Reuse cloth isolation gowns.		
16. Reprocess PPE – N95 masks could be irradiated and used weeks later (in discovery). Move from visors to goggles, which can be cleaned. Move to washable gowns.		