

# Emergency Department PPE during COVID-19

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**Introduction:** The Emergency Department (ED) is considered a high-risk care area due to the variety of acuties and undifferentiated presentations. Each patient encounter could be a potential exposure including unexpected aerosol generating procedures (AGP). The recommendations for PPE will deviate from other locations based on its unique environment.

For further information on Spectrum Health PPE [click here](#).

## General PPE Recommendations

Clinical Context	Recommendation
Aerosolizing procedures* of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients	N95 respirator/PAPR, face shield <sup>^</sup> , gown and gloves
Direct contact with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients, in the hospital setting.	Standard isolation mask or Spectrum Health reusable blue mask, face shield <sup>^</sup> , gown and gloves
Direct contact with non-COVID-19 patients	Standard isolation mask or Spectrum Health reusable blue mask and face shield <sup>^</sup>
Other settings (hallways, work rooms, cafeteria, etc.)	Standard isolation mask

<sup>^</sup>Wearing face shields is preferred as this protects your mask from contamination

\*Aerosolizing procedures include - nebulized medications, trach aerosol device (trach collar or t-piece), Non-invasive ventilation (BIPAP/CPAP), active intubation, CPR, large bore high flow nasal canula, bag-valve-mask ventilation (a viral filter should be inserted between the face mask and BV)

## Information about mask options

1. Each ED staff member may choose between a yellow isolation mask or an N95 mask based on their potential for direct exposure to AGPs. (If isolation mask is used must obtain N95 for aerosolizing procedure)
2. Currently the N95s can be disinfected and reused for multiple shifts unless soiled. A new N95 can be requested at each location if you are covering multiple sites. The disinfection process at each site must be followed as part of Spectrum Health's PPE preservation protocols.
3. When you first receive your N95 write on it, include your full name, unit, and date of first use
4. Mask should only be removed for eating or drinking. Mask should only be discarded if soiled with blood, body fluids, difficult to breathe through or fails seal check.

## Miscellaneous

1. Don't touch the outside of your mask.
2. Don't pull your mask down under your chin.
3. Don't double layer gloves or masks. It provides no additional benefit.
4. Don't discard your N95 after a single use or aerosolizing procedures
5. Face masks and N95 respirators must be stored in a safe and secure manner when they are removed.
6. Home supplies can be used if commercially manufactured and they meet or exceed Spectrum Health's isolation policy requirements.
7. Homemade masks cannot be used in hospital setting at this time.

Note: Recommendations for management of COVID patients is rapidly changing. This information is felt to represent the best initial approach based on recommendations from national agencies, expert opinion or case reports.