

COVID-19 Permissive use of N95 on COVID-19 Units 06.26.20 0931

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Due to social distancing measures in the state of Michigan, the epidemiological curve has been flattened. While COVID-19 infected patients continue to be cared for in Spectrum Health Hospitals, the models predicting COVID-19 peaks show a significant decrease in overall COVID-19 hospitalizations. **Team members caring for patients on COVID-19 Units:**

- **We are now able to offer team members on dedicated severe respiratory isolation units the option of using either a standard isolation mask or N95 respirator mask, along with the recommended PPE for Severe Respiratory precautions (face shield, gowns, and gloves) for routine patient care for COVID-19 positive patients or PUIs.**
- Either choice (isolation mask or N95 respirator) is fully protective for routine care of patients with COVID-19.
- N95 respirator remains mandatory for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs).
- Fit Testing is available for employees through Employee Health. If you have not been fit tested for a N95 please contact Employee Health prior to use: healthassessments@spectrumhealth.org
- **To preserve our N95 supply, team members should follow extended use guidelines whenever possible and appropriate.**
- Spectrum Health isolation PPE policies are unchanged as they are consistent with the current CDC and WHO recommendations and with the known transmission of COVID-19.

Spectrum Health relies upon evidence-based guidelines from the: CDC, WHO, SHEA, and Joint Commission guidelines for the development of isolation procedures for COVID-19 positive patients and patients under investigation (PUI).

For more information on reuse and extended use, please refer to the [PPE Guidelines](#) and [PPE Reuse and Extended Use Guidelines](#).

References: <http://shea-online.org/index.php/journal-news/press-room/press-release-archives/778-new-guidelines-outline-covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-evidence>, https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331695/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_PPE_use-2020.3-eng.pdf (Table 1), <https://www.jointcommission.org/en/standards/standard-faqs/ambulatory/infection-prevention-and-control-ic/000002274/>