



for OPEIU Local 8 members at Sea Mar CHC

The governor has issued an expansion of healthcare and dental services as long as certain Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and safety criteria are followed.

The guidelines are below.

If you believe your worksite is not following the proper safety and PPE criteria, please file a Workplace safety and health complaint to the L&I Call Center: 1-800-423-7233 or file an online complaint at <https://lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F418-052-000.pdf>

More information can be found at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>

PPE Usage Guidelines for Health Care Facilities

Personal Protective Equipment Usage Guideline							
		N-95 Respirator	PAPR/CAPR hoods	Surgical Masks	Cloth Masks	Eye Protection	Gowns
Standard Recommended Use of PPE (Green)	Device	Fit-tested	Commercial made	Commercial made	N/A	Commercial made	Commercial made
	Duration	Change per encounter	Change per encounter	Change per encounter	N/A	Change per encounter	Change per encounter
PPE Conservation Strategies (Yellow)	Device	Fit-tested	Commercial made	Commercial made	N/A	Commercial made	Commercial made
	Duration	For HCP only, extended use or limited re-use for 8 hours or until visibly soiled or other criteria met* <small>(Re-processing N95s may be integrated into re-use policy if needed)</small>	For HCP only, until broken, shared between HCPs <small>(Re-processing hoods may be integrated into re-use policy if needed)</small>	Extended use or until visibly soiled, damaged <small>(If universal masking, do not provide to HCP outside clinical areas or visitors)</small>	N/A	Extended use or until visibly soiled, difficult to see through, damaged	Reuse on the same patient by the same HCP or until visibly soiled is preferred <small>(See PPE Re-use Guidance for more information)</small>
Extreme Strategies (Red)	Device	Fit-tested, non-fit tested, or industrial	Non-commercial made	Commercial made	Facility-designed or homemade (not NIOSH-approved) masks	Non-commercial made	Commercial made/ Home made
	Duration	Till seal integrity lost	Until broken	Reuse	Any	Re-use	Use for multiple patients or when visibly soiled or use of non-standard products (ponchos, patient gowns, etc.)

* Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures; Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients; Discard N95 respirators following close contact with, or exit from, the care area of any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions. Initial (baseline) fit testing to be done. Annual fit testing can be postponed during times of PPE shortage.

Definitions:

- **Extended use** refers to the practice of wearing the same PPE for repeated close contact encounters with several patients, without removing the PPE between patient encounters.
- **Reuse** refers to the practice of using the same PPE for multiple encounters with patients but removing it ("doffing") after each encounter. The respirator is stored in between encounters to be put on again ("donned") prior to the next encounter with a patient. N95 respirator reuse is often referred to as "limited reuse".

Extended and Re-use of PPE by Healthcare Personnel

Type of PPE	How long can I wear if extended use?	How do I store if re-using?	How many times can I re-use?	Can I decontaminate between uses?	Other instructions
N95 Respirator	8 hours continuously or until visibly soiled	In a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag labeled with the user's name	5 times	Decontamination can be considered, but no data exist supporting effectiveness ¹	Consider 5 respirators per HCW ²
Facemask	Until visibly soiled/damaged up to 1 shift	In a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag labeled with the user's name ³	Until visibly soiled/damaged up to 1 shift	Do not decontaminate as there is no data on effectiveness and damage to the facemask is likely	Facemasks with ties may tear during removal and should be considered only for extended use, rather than re-use
Eye protection	Until visibly soiled, difficult to see through or damaged	After disinfecting, in a dedicated space labeled with the user's name	Until difficult to see through or damaged	Yes, according to manufacturer's instructions ⁴	
Gown	Until visibly soiled and only if caring for patients with the same infectious disease in the same location (e.g., COVID-19 patients in an isolation unit) ⁵	Hang in area where it can be easily accessed and donned when entering the care area.	Until visible soiled up to 1 shift	Cloth gowns should be laundered according to routine healthcare laundry practice ⁶	Disposable gown ties and fasteners typically break during doffing. Cloth isolation gowns could be considered for re-use.

If you have questions, contact your Union Rep:

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