

Personal Protective Equipment Conservation

The COVID-19 pandemic has created substantial demands on personal protective equipment and the entire world is experiencing production and logistics disruptions. Conservation measures and practices must be followed by everyone across HHS to ensure products are available for the safety of our patients and our care providers—**we are all in this together.**

HHS is committed to meeting supply needs during this difficult time and collaborative efforts are occurring within our city, region, and province. Allocations of materials must be adjusted to flow where needs are greatest. Given the constraints, we must alter our traditional practices in ways that allow us to continue providing safe care.

Here's **what HHS is doing** to make the best use of our PPE resources, **what departments need to do** as a collective, and **what you, the individual, can do** to help.

Resources (links):

- [PPE Conservation Workflow Redesign Team Action Plan](#)
- [PPE Conservation Checklist](#)
- [PPE Re-Use and Extended-Use Guidelines](#)
- [PPE Re-Use Step-by-Step Instructions](#)
- [PPE Conservation Process Observation Cards](#)
- [Isolation Room Checklist](#)

Everyone has a part to play in conserving PPE

	Conservation Tactics	Managing flow of supplies
HHS as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Public Health Ontario and Chief Medical Officer of Health Directives on PPE use for COVID-19 patient care • Reducing scheduled procedures including surgery, diagnostics, and ambulatory patient care • Increasing virtual care • Restricting visitors, learners and volunteers • Restricting research activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting with alternative producers to create and scale up additional supply lines • Reviewing “expired” products for safe use based upon guidance from manufacturers • Seeking and accepting PPE donations with processes to vet product quality and standards and control how these products flow into the system • Establishing PPE re-processing techniques where feasible and supported by research evidence • Restocking units/departments with reduced par levels, increased frequency, and 24/7 access • Setting standards for allocation of certain re-usable devices
Units/Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating staff and physicians on proper isolation precautions and PPE use, including extended-use practices, and re-use practices • Cohorting isolation patients with like organisms to facilitate extended-use practices • Changing workflow to minimize the number of providers entering isolation rooms (e.g. no entry of nutrition service staff into isolation rooms) • Ensuring close follow up of laboratory results to clear patients out of isolation as soon as possible • Using virtual care where feasible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting up anti-theft posters up in supply rooms, team spaces, and public spaces and follow through on anti-theft actions • Returning products to logistics where patient activity has been reduced or where stock has been amassed • Maintaining daily use inventory levels and reaching near “just-in-time” allocations, and reviewing PPE stock needs frequently. • Substituting disposable for re-usable N95 respirators (e.g. Medical Device Reprocessing Dept., Pharmacy chemo drug preparation)
Healthcare workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the practice standards set by HHS for isolation precautions and PPE use • Following proper PPE donning and doffing to minimize waste • Educating and following PPE extended-use and safe re-use protocols • Ensuring exposure risks are minimized using proper surveillance measures of patients, self, and others • Fit testing to alternative N95 respirators when necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your CQI waste reduction knowledge to adopt workflow changes as a team that improves conservation of PPE, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preventing unnecessary movement across the unit into clean and dirty spaces ○ Setting up means to access equipment or supplies efficiently • Using approved older or “expired” PPE as instructed by the organization