

FACTSHEET

PPE conservation measures

PPE shortages are a reality faced by all Ontario hospitals. The situation has become worse and without additional conservation strategies, we run the risk of running out of key categories of masks and other PPE supplies just as the expected surge of patients is about to arrive.

We need to establish a “closed loop” system as much as possible, working within our existing stock of PPE and allocation, for as long as the availability of supplies remains in question.

PPE conservation measures – Extended use

- All areas will practice extended use of masks/eye protection.
 - if you need to don masks and/or eye protection for the care of your first patient of the day, you are asked to continue to wear it until you either need to don a higher level of mask (eg. N95 respirator), go on a bio break, or the mask is visibly soiled.
 - This mask continues to be worn even if you leave the area where the mask was required, or see subsequent patients that do not require a mask for their care.

PPE conservation measures – Reuse

- [Reuse of masks](#) is now in place for all staff not caring for COVID positive or suspected patients with tests pending.
 - This means if you are wearing a mask, and need to go on a bio break or don a higher level of mask (eg. N95 respirator) rather than throwing away the mask you are wearing you will doff the mask, store it, and re-don it when needed.

PPE conservation measures – Mask reprocessing

- For units already collecting masks for reprocessing, this process will continue.

PPE conservation measures – Personal goggles or face shields

- Personal goggles or face shields can be used as eye protection. Please ensure to wipe them down after doffing by washing with soap and water.
 - To be acceptable eye protection for droplet/contact they must not have holes, provide full eye protection, and be shatter proof (prescription eye glasses are not considered appropriate eye protection)
 - Patients and essential visitors that come to HHS wearing a mask can leave them on. Please [reinforce hand hygiene](#).

All staff working in **non-clinical** areas of the hospital must adhere to the following protective measures:

- Practice meticulous hand hygiene
- Complete self-screening web link each day that you present to one of our sites
- Adhere to physical distancing principles
- May use their own mask from home – cloth or paper

Personal Protection Decision Framework

Health care workers conduct Point of Care Risk Assessments (PCRA) and use their clinical judgement to wear the necessary PPE. The HHS guidelines on PPE use, are aligned with provincial directions, and are the recommended approach various patient contacts described. It is our collective responsibility to ensure PPE is used appropriately.

- [PCRA guide](#)