

# PPE Conservation (careful re-use)

## Face masks, N95 respirators and Eye Protection Does not apply to PAPRs

### How does it work?

#### Careful re-use

Careful reuse involves removing a face mask, N95 respirator, or eye protection, placing it in a paper bag or on a hook, and then donning it again.

#### Example situations for re-use:

- Moving between 2 patients, 1 requiring droplet/contact isolation (standard procedural mask and eye protection), and another requiring full barrier isolation (N95 mask and eye protection)
- Break requiring access to the nose or mouth

#### Key points for conservation

For patients in droplet/contact or full barrier isolation (including COVID patients), careful reuse of face masks and N95 respirators is only acceptable if a barrier is present to shield from droplets. You can use the following as a barrier:

- Full face shield or
- Goggles with a mask cover (standard procedural face mask can be used as a mask cover over N95)

Team members doing careful re-use of PPE should make every effort to not touch their masks and eye protection.

If team members MUST touch their face mask, N95 respirator, or eye protection, hand hygiene must be performed after touching.




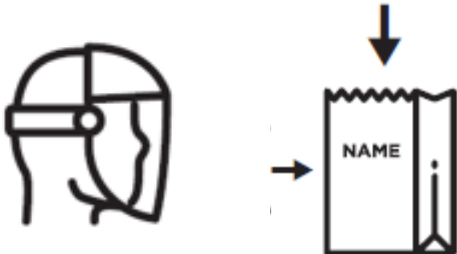

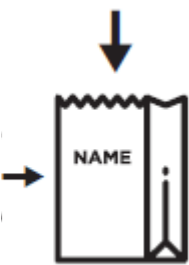
N95 respirators and procedural masks should be discarded when any of the following criteria are met:

- Become visibly soiled, wet, or damaged
- Become hard to breathe through
- Tight seal of N95 cannot be achieved on self-fit check
- If not covered during the care of a patient on droplet/contact or full barrier precautions

Eye protection should be cleaned when any of the following criteria are met:

- After participating in an aerosol generating procedure
- After an overt contamination with splashes/droplets
- When leaving the patient care area, (i.e. for break or after the end of your shift)

## Careful reuse of masks and eye protection

SUPPLY ITEM	CAREFUL REUSE STEPS
<p><b>Droplet/Contact Face Mask</b></p>  <p><b>Full Barrier N95 Respirator</b></p>  <p>Alternative options if face shield is not available:</p>   <p><b>N95 Respirator</b></p>  	<p><b>First time wear or careful re-use</b></p> <p><u>Donning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform hand hygiene</li> <li>• Don your mask per normal process, including seal check if using an N95</li> <li>• Don your eye protection per normal process (face shield or goggles)</li> <li>• If you are wearing goggles and not a face shield, BEFORE CARING FOR A PATIENT IN DROPLET/CONTACT OR FULL BARRIER PRECAUTIONS, you must add a barrier to protect your mask             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Switch your goggles for a full face shield, or add a mask cover over your N95</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Doffing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove gloves and gown per gown re-use directions</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene</li> <li>• If you participated in an aerosol generating procedure or have an overt splash/droplets on your eye protection:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Don clean gloves</li> <li>◦ Remove face shield or goggles by straps or ear pieces (do not touch outer protected eye area)</li> <li>◦ Clean with hospital provided wipe</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remove and discard gloves</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene</li> </ul> <p><u>For break or at the end of your shift (leaving patient care area):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow doffing procedure for gloves, gown and eye protection</li> <li>• Place cleaned, reusable eye protection in paper bag with name/date.</li> <li>• Remove mask(s) by straps without touching the inside of the mask             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If simple facemask, discard</li> <li>◦ If N95, place in a separate designated paper bag with name/date (add employee ID # if undergoing UVGI disinfection)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>