



Guidance to Preserve & Extend Universal Use of Medical Masks and Face Shields

To ensure the protection of our team members and our community, the guidance below helps to extend and preserve the integrity of our PPE and the ability to maintain it's function.

Keep in mind that the outside of the mask is contaminated with environmental pathogens, and the inside of the mask is contaminated with the wearer's pathogens.

Guidelines for universal use of masks and face shields, based on EXTENDED use:

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Put on mask
3. Put on your face shield
4. Keep both on as long as you do not enter an isolation room or meet the [discard criteria](#)
5. If you enter an isolation room
 - Non aerosolizing procedure
 - Clean face shield per [reprocessing policy](#). Keep same face mask on as long as it does not meet discard criteria.
 - Aerosolizing procedure
 - Take face mask off and put on N95 mask, place face shield on top.
 - After exiting room clean face shield and follow re-use instructions for n95.
6. When caring for patients cohorted for COVID 19, it is not necessary to remove faceshield or mask between rooms. If caring for both positive and negative patients, shields must be cleaned before entering negative rooms.

- Faceshields can help protect your mask from being contaminated.
- Avoid touching your masks.

Do not discard mask unless:

- Contaminated hands have touched inside
- Wet, soiled, or damaged
- Appropriate fit is not maintained

Do not discard face shield, goggles or PAPR shield unless:

- Inside cannot be cleaned
- Damaged in any manner
- Foam batting damaged/soiled
- Face shield cracked/ripped
- Chin cuff of PAPR shield not snug to skin

Reuse of Face Masks

(If face mask must be removed during day):

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Remove mask using earloops, avoiding touching the exterior of mask
- Assess mask for discard criteria
- If mask does not meet discard criteria, mask may be stored in paper bag to reapply when needed

* Face shields for clinical use are available for suspected and COVID (+) patients. Additional reusable face shields will be distributed.

Best practices for extended use:

- Put on your mask and leave it on.