

Interim Guidance for Managing Enhanced Isolation Precautions During Period of Reduced Supply of Personal Protective Equipment.

When the inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is low due to extraordinary circumstances, the following changes to Enhanced Isolation Precautions will apply:

- Facemasks (i.e., surgical masks), will be an acceptable alternative to respirators for enhanced airborne precautions for known or suspected COVID-19, unless an aerosol-generating procedure is being performed. During aerosol-generating procedures, which pose the highest risk of exposure to healthcare personnel (HCP), a respirator should be worn for respiratory protection (in addition to eye protection, a gown, and gloves). Place AGP link here.
 - o Examples of aerosol generating procedures:
 - Bronchoscopy
 - Suctioning of the respiratory tract [if not using in-line suction catheters]
 - Endotracheal intubation
 - Manipulation of BiPAP and CPAP mask
 - Nebulizer treatment
 - Sputum induction
 - Chest physiotherapy
 - High frequency oscillatory ventilation
 - Tracheostomy
 - o The number of HCP present during the procedure should be limited to only those essential for patient care and procedure support. Visitors should not be present for the procedure.
 - o Patients with known or suspected COVID-19 should be cared for in a single-person room with the door closed. Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.
- Eye protection, gown, and gloves continue to be recommended for care of patients on enhanced airborne precautions for known or suspected COVID-19.
 - o If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of HCP.
- HCP caring for patients with other infections for which respiratory protection is strongly indicated (e.g., tuberculosis, measles, varicella), should continue to wear a respirator (should not utilize facemasks).

Reference: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings. 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>.