



**COVID-19 Infection Control and Prevention Recommendations
March 27, 2020**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/swqv7nb> for an electronic version of this Health Advisory

Background

Guidelines for infection control and prevention when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in healthcare settings have been updated by the CDC and CMS. Special care should be taken to ensure that respirators are reserved for situations where respiratory protection is most important, such as performance of aerosol-generating procedures performed on suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. For detailed guidance refer to the following CDC guidance: [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)

Key Points

- Facemasks are an acceptable alternative when respirators (N95 masks) are not available. When in short supply, respirators should be conserved for procedures that generate aerosols or care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated.
- Eye protection, gowns, and gloves continue to be recommended. If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for procedures that generate aerosols or care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated.
- Patients with suspected or known COVID-19 should be cared for in a single-person room with a closed door.
- Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients undergoing procedures involving high risk of aerosol-generation.

PPE

Resource Requests

If your facility does not have the proper protective equipment, please contact Shasta County Public Health at DOC45@co.shasta.ca.us. Members of the Shasta Department Operations Center will be utilizing Situation Reports and Resource Request forms to process any resource requests.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PPE for triage:

Healthcare Personnel who enter the room of a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 should adhere to Standard Precautions and use a facemask, face shield, gloves and gown (if available).

PPE for testing:

When collecting diagnostic respiratory specimens (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab) from a possible COVID-19 patient, the following should occur:

- Healthcare Personnel in the room should wear an N95 or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection, gloves, and a gown (if available).
- The number of healthcare personnel present during the procedure should be limited to only those essential for patient care and procedure support. Visitors should not be present for specimen collection.
- Specimen collection should be performed in a normal examination room with the door closed.
- Clean and disinfect procedure room surfaces promptly as described in the section on environmental infection control below.

PPE Optimization:

- Utilize CDC's PPE Optimization Guidance for: [eye protection](#), [isolation gowns](#), [face masks](#), [N95 respirators](#) and the [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Burn Rate Calculator](#)
- Limit visitors and exclude HCP not directly involved in patient care (e.g. dietary, housekeeping).
- Consider cohorting patients and the assignment of designated teams of HCP to provide cares for all patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- In times of shortage implement limited re-use or extended use, as appropriate.
- In times of gown shortages, surgical gowns should be prioritized for surgical and other sterile procedures.
- Use isolation gown alternatives that offer equivalent or higher protection. Consider the use of coveralls or reusable (i.e., washable) gowns, typically made of polyester or polyester-cotton fabrics.

Testing

For current testing guidance, see Shasta County COVID-19 Health Alerts here: <https://tinyurl.com/ShastaCOVID-19>.

Resources

1. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>
2. Medicare and Medicaid Services: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-17-all.pdf>
3. CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>