

COVID-19 Response Planning

Subject: N95s for Staff Caring for COVID Positive and Rule Out Patients

What's Changing: Recognizing increased community prevalence of COVID-19, we have reached the decision to move to an all-N95 strategy for staff caring for COVID-positive and COVID rule-out patients in the inpatient hospital setting. Our Supply Chain team has been working diligently to acquire N95s based on our predictive modeling, and we have been able to increase our supply of N95s to broaden our utilization. We are recommending continuously wearing an N95 and full face shield while working with COVID-positive and rule-out patients in the inpatient hospital setting.

When you are caring for a COVID-positive or rule-out patient, the recommendation is to wear an N95 and full face shield regardless of aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs). At the beginning of your shift, ensure you are able to establish your seal to your properly fitted N95. Continue to wear your N95 unless it becomes wet, soiled, damaged, etc., until you go on break. While on break, wear a procedural mask. Please don a new N95 before returning to the floor after your break. Please make sure you are wearing a procedural mask whenever you are not wearing your N95, except when eating or drinking.

The PPE guidance table and the door signs will be adjusted to reflect this change.

Who is affected: Staff providing care to COVID-positive or rule-out patients in the hospital setting. This applies in both the Puget Sound and Inland Northwest Regions.

How: If you are included among the affected staff, please collect your new N95 from your unit manager or their designee.

When: Effective Tuesday, November 24th, 2020