

PPE Conservation Strategies: Recommendations from Partners in Health

- When evaluating patients with concern for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), providers should wear a surgical mask, gown, gloves, and eye protection. This is a (WHO) and (CDC) recommendation.
- N95 masks should only be used for aerosolizing procedures with COVID-19 patients, such as nebulization, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, and intubation.
- When possible, concentrate patient care activities to minimize sets of PPE needed. For example, take vital signs and give medications at the same time to use one set of PPE instead of returning a second time and using the second set of PPE.
- Minimize people in an isolation area, or for a patient needing PPE, to the caregivers involved in the direct care of those patients.
- Limit the number of observers and non-essential personnel in operating rooms to reduce the use of masks and gowns.
- As needed, consider the extended use of masks between patients (meaning, care providers keep their mask on continuously, rather than removing between patients).
- Eye protection can be cleaned with a bleach solution and reused between patients.
- To ensure that global PPE shortages do not negatively impact the care of any kind of patient (including TB patients and surgical patients), it is important to conserve the use of PPE in all clinical areas, as well as COVID-19 response areas.

Reference:

<https://www.pih.org/article/pih-shares-ppe-conservation-strategies-amid-local-global-shortages>