

MGH COVID-19 Guidance for Eye Protection, Respirator Reuse and Fit Check

Updated 3/20/20

This document and any policies described were prepared (in March, 2020) by and for Partners HealthCare medical professionals (a.k.a. clinicians, care givers) and employees and is being made available publicly for informational purposes only, in the context of a public health emergency related to COVID-19 (a.k.a. the coronavirus) and in connection with the state of emergency declared by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States. It is based on pertinent published medical literature, national and state guidelines, and/or expert consensus, which continues to evolve relative to COVID-19. It is neither an attempt to substitute for the practice of medicine nor as a substitute for the provision of any medical professional services. Furthermore, the content is not meant to be complete, exhaustive, or a substitute for medical professional advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The information herein should be adapted to each specific patient based on the treating medical professional's independent professional judgment and consideration of the patient's needs, the resources available at the location from where the medical professional services are being provided (e.g., healthcare institution, ambulatory clinic, physician's office, etc.), and any other unique circumstances. This information should not be used to replace, substitute for, or overrule a qualified medical professional's judgment. You assume full responsibility for using this information and understand and agree that Partners HealthCare is not responsible or liable for any errors or omissions or for any claim, loss or damage resulting from the use of this information.

Infection Control Guidance on Reuse of Eye Protection



DISPOSABLE FACE SHIELD

OR



PERSONAL GOGGLES:
FULLY REUSABLE

OR



PERSONAL GOGGLES:
REUSABLE FRAME with
DISPOSABLE LENS

Guidance as of March 16, 2020

When notified by the institution's appropriate authority, all healthcare workers using eye protection in the form of face shield or goggles to care for patients should reuse these supplies as follows:

1. All eye protection can be removed, cleaned, and reused later in the shift (*including for different patients with different viral diagnoses*) as long as it is not physically damaged.
 - a. Eye protection should be cleaned with alcohol if contaminated with droplet particles during a patient encounter (example: close range cough), visibly soiled, and after removal.
2. Extended use (wearing of eye protection without removal or re-donning) is allowed if the eyewear does not require cleaning (see #1a above) between patient encounters.
3. After removal, wipe the face shield or goggles on the external surface with an alcohol-based wipe (*pictured*) and allow to dry, then immediately perform hand hygiene.
4. Keep the disinfected face shield or goggles in a clean, dry, labeled receptacle (paper tray, emesis basin, or chux - *pictured*) for reuse. Do not store in same container with a used mask or respirator.
5. Eye protection must be worn by a single wearer
 - a. Label the face shield or goggles with name of the user with a marker (not a sticker).
6. Disposable face shields and disposable lens* can be used for a maximum of one shift. (*After removing the lens, the reusable frame must be disinfected before re-use or storage.)
7. Personal reusable goggles can be reused regularly without time limit (unless damaged).
8. Personal glasses are never suitable for eye protection.



Infection Control Guidance on Extended Use/Reuse of N95 Respirators and Surgical and Procedural Masks



Guidance as of March 16, 2020

When notified by the institution's appropriate authority, all healthcare workers using surgical or procedural masks or respirators to care for patients should reuse these supplies as follows:

1. N-95 respirators and surgical masks may be removed and reused later (by the same HCW) in the shift (*including for different patients with different viral diagnoses*) as long as they are not physically damaged, grossly soiled, or contaminated by droplets
 - a. Contamination with droplet particles occurs when patient coughs at close range or when a provider transfers droplets from a contaminated surface to the mask by hand
2. Extended use (wearing a N-95 respirator or mask without removal or re-donning) is allowed if the mask has not been damaged, grossly soiled, or contaminated by droplets.
3. After use, place the removed N-95 respirator or mask in a clean, dry, labeled receptacle (washable tray or emesis basin, *pictured*), then perform hand hygiene.
 - a. Re-usable respirators/masks should be kept in a separate receptacle than re-usable eye protection.
4. If re-using, don the respirator or mask while wearing gloves, taking care to avoid touching face or eyes:
 - a. Perform seal check (also known as Fit Check) (for N-95)
 - b. Discard gloves and perform hand hygiene
 - c. Don new gloves
5. Surgical masks should not be used for patients on Airborne isolation or for Droplet Isolation patients undergoing aerosolizing procedures; these patients require N-95 respirators
 - a. Examples of aerosolizing procedures include nebulizers, deep suctioning, high-flow oxygen, non-invasive ventilation, and intubation.
6. N-95 respirators and surgical masks must be worn by a single wearer and for a maximum of one shift
7. Patients on Droplet Isolation requires eye protection.



COVID19 Update

Fit Checking Respirators



What is meant by Fit Checking (AKA Seal Checking)?

- A user fit check is a procedure conducted by the respirator wearer to determine if the respirator is being properly worn.
- A user fit check is sometimes referred to as a fit check. A user fit check is completed each time the respirator is donned (put on).
- Fit checking is only necessary for N95 respirators

How to perform a “Fit Check” (User Seal Check):

- The Basics:
 - Properly don respirator (N95)
 - Don gloves before donning and fit checking a used N95. After fit checking, remove gloves and use hand hygiene.
 - Gently place hands over N95 (do not crush)
 - Forcefully inhale and exhale several times
 - Respirator should collapse slightly upon inhaling and expand upon exhaling
 - Wearer should not feel any leakage of air from around mask
 - If respirator does not collapse/expand or air leakage is noted:
 - Smooth nose piece to ensure proper fit
 - Adjust position of respirator and/or straps
 - After adjusting, perform Fit Check again
 - Not all N95 respirators include an inhale and exhale Fit Check. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

