Updated PPE guidelines- 5/1/20
By Your YNHH/Yale Radiology Quality and Safety Team

Basics- Wash hands frequently, use gloves and gowns when needed, keep equipment and work area clean. Avoid any contact with eyes, face, mouth.

Should every patient who comes in for a radiology test be given a face mask?
Yes. All in-patients, out-patients and ED patients (regardless of COVID status) should have a face mask on whenever possible. Out-patients will be encouraged to bring their own mask. If they show up without one, they will be given one by screening staff upon entry. All healthcare staff should always have a face mask on.

I have front line patient contact (most of our techs, all IR staff), what should I do with my face mask (NOT a N95 mask) at end of shift?
Currently these are not being collected for recycling so you can throw it out at end of shift. Get a new clean one to wear as you leave the hospital and wear that one back to use the next day.

How do we determine if a patient is COVID-19 suspect?
For ED: All cases should be treated as suspect requiring full PPE use.
For in-patients: All admitted cases are now getting tested. In-patient team will determine if clinical suspicion for COVID still high even with negative COVID test. Look in EPIC for isolation orders or talk to nurse.
For out-patients: Screening for suspect COVID symptoms and potential exposures will be completed via pre-appt call/text messages and at arrival by front desk team.

I have direct patient contact. What should I wear?

**COVID Suspect** (Person Under Investigation/PUI) OR **POSITIVE** patients (includes a patient with negative swab test but still being treated as COVID positive by the clinical team) or **ANY** aerosol generating procedures (including portable imaging right after aerosol generating procedure), percutaneous biopsies/LP, any imaging where anesthesia team is involved.

Full PPE including
- N95 mask (surgical mask may be used ONLY if no N95 is available)
  - Do not wear make-up→ it prevents recycling of mask.
  - Shave all facial hair → see CDC chart below. If you can’t remove facial hair for religious reasons etc please talk to your manager.

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1 The swab PCR test is not 100% accurate (depends on sampling method, stage of disease). Some patients with negative test may still have COVID. These patients often get re-tested or are treated as being positive for COVID by clinician.
To be used/reused for ENTIRE SHIFT unless visibly contaminated. If not keeping it on for your full shift, follow proper doff procedure and store in clean brown paper bag (use your face mask when not using the N95). At end of shift recycle N95 mask in designated bin, and dispose of brown paper bag.

- There is a VERY limited supply of small N95 masks. For those staff who require a size small, please hold onto your mask or see if you pass a fit test with a universal mask.

- Gloves
- Face shield
  - To be reused for entire shift unless damaged/soiled.
  - Face shield is to be cleaned with cavi wipe before and after each use, then stored in a bag in designated area.
  - Recycle shield at end of shift by placing in designated bin.
- Gown

**Non-COVID suspect** (in-patient or out-patient)

- Surgical mask-
  - If you have direct front line contact with patients, you should wear same mask all shift, and get a new one next shift. If you have no direct patient contact, we are being asked to use one mask/week. Replace mask sooner if damaged/soiled.
  - Do not remove and replace mask unless you need to take off to eat, etc. When doing so, avoid any contact with front of mask. If you do touch the mask, wash your hands immediately.
  - When storing it during a shift, fold in half so INSIDE portions of mask (the part that touches your face) remains protected.

**I don't have direct patient contact what should I wear?**

- Wear a face mask. Right now we are getting one per week. Replace sooner if needed.
- For radiologists- Face masks are needed when outside reading rooms in hospital environment. Inside reading rooms, masks should be used when unable to adhere to social distancing rules.

**What about wearing my N95 mask and face shield all shift instead of a face mask?**

- If you are switching between COVID patients and non-COVID patients (like many of our staff do), it may be easier to just keep your N95 mask and face shield on for your entire shift and don the rest of PPE for your COVID patients (add on your gloves, gown). If you opt to do this, a few key points:
  - Once you put a mask on, keep it on. Don’t take it off and put on your chin, on your forehead, etc. It should only be removed when eating, drinking, etc or if you are uncomfortable with it. Avoid any contact with it, and presume the outside of the mask is infected.
  - You don’t have to take your yellow gown off if you are doing multiple COVID POSITIVE patients in a row, since they are all documented to have the infection. You can also keep it on if you are going from a COVID suspect patient to a COVID positive patient.
  - Follow proper hand hygiene and doff procedure when removing PPE. Always wear your face mask when not wearing your N95.
What PPE is currently being recycled vs thrown out?
N95- Can use one per shift, recycle at end of shift
Face Shield/Goggles- Can use one per shift, recycle at end of shift
Face mask- NOT recycling currently. Dispose in trash after use (either per shift or per week).
Yellow contact gowns- Attempting NEWrecycle process right now on COVID in-patient floors and will soon roll out at radiology locations. When removing do not break ties or poke your thumbs through the sleeves if you are working in a location where gown recycling available. See updated video on proper Don/Doff procedures including how to take off and recycle the yellow gowns. We find it easier to have a colleague wearing gloves undue the neck tie so you don’t risk rubbing the gown on your face or body.

How to Don and Doff PPE –

See video on radiology.yale.edu

CDC Infographic on What Facial Hair is Acceptable in Order to Properly Wear an N95 Mask

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/FacialHairWmask11282017-508.pdf