# What PPE should I use?
## Caring for a COVID (or rule-out COVID) patient

### Situation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewing a patient with acute respiratory illness.</th>
<th>Source Control</th>
<th>PPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mask the patient.</td>
<td>None if &gt; 6 feet away. If within 6 feet, minimum is mask with half face shield³ or mask with safety glasses.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Obtaining a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab.                    | Ask the patient to cover his/her mouth with tissue while you obtain the NP swab. | Mask with half face shield³ or mask with safety glasses. Gloves. Gown if available. |


| Aerosolizing procedure (intubation/extubation, CPR, nebulizers, BIPAP/CPAP). | Intubation preferred over non-invasive ventilation for source control. | N95 respirator with full face shield¹ (preferred), or PAPR². Gloves. Gown. |

### When should I wear N95 vs. PAPR?

- **I have been fit-tested within the past 1-2 years.**
  - This differs from our usual practice due to supply chain constraints.
  - **N95**
    - 1: N95 with full face shield
  - **PAPR**
    - 2: PAPR (hood may vary)
    - 3: Mask with half face shield

- **I have failed a fit-test OR adequate eye protection for the N95 is not available.**
  - **N95**
    - 1: N95 with full face shield
  - **PAPR**
    - 2: PAPR (hood may vary)
    - 3: Mask with half face shield

### Additional information

- While we have halted our usual fit-testing process to conserve N95s, our current supply of N95s is greater than our supply of PAPR hoods. Please use N95s whenever possible.
- To conserve supply, PAPR hoods must be disinfected, then reused by the same caregiver for the same patient for each shift.
- Once PAPR hoods are no longer available, N95s with face shields should be used. If you typically wear a PAPR due to facial hair, we recommend shaving and getting fit-tested.
- Based on availability you may need to use our current N95 model (1870+) or an older model (1870). They are nearly identical, but you should use the model(s) you have been fit-tested for. If you were fit-tested within the past 1-2 years and have not had any major changes to your facial structure (e.g., significant weight loss/gain), it remains safe to use. Your manager can run a report in Learning Space to see which model you were last fit-tested for.
- Fit-testing will be prioritized for those units who will potentially be receiving COVID patients, using supplies from the Delaware state stockpile. (These are an older model so new fit-testing may be required.)

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*Reviewed 4/15/20*