

# What PPE should I use?

## Caring for a COVID (or rule-out COVID) patient

Situation	Source Control	PPE
Interviewing a patient with acute respiratory illness.	Mask the patient.	None if > 6 feet away. If within 6 feet, minimum is mask with half face shield <sup>3</sup> or mask with safety glasses.
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 shield <sup>3</sup> or mask with safety glasses. Gloves. Gown if available.
Routine patient care.	Mask the patient.	Mask with full face shield or mask with safety glasses. Gloves. Gown.
Aerosolizing procedure (intubation/extubation, CPR, nebulizers, BIPAP/CPAP).	Intubation preferred over non-invasive ventilation for source control.	N95 respirator with full face shield <sup>1</sup> (preferred), or PAPR <sup>2</sup> . 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

**I have failed a fit-test OR adequate eye protection for the N95 is not available.**

**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.)