Extended Use PPE for COVID Care

Scope: COVID+ and R/O COVID (PUI) patients

Purpose: To improve the efficiency of care and conserve personal protective equipment (PPE) while ensuring the safety of staff and patients.

Extended use of PPE practice between COVID patients:

- Wear respirator, face shield and gowns between COVID+ patients in multiple bed rooms.
- Wear respirator, face shield and gowns between COVID+ patients in single rooms in situations where one can safely move from room to room without coming in contact with the environment.
- Change gloves and perform hand hygiene in between patients, including when performing extended use of gowns/respiratory PPE.
- Minimize doffing/donning of respirators to maintain device integrity.
- Cluster care.

Additional Guidance:

1. Minimize number of people entering the room to essential personnel only.
2. Support clustering of care by making assignments of known COVID+ patients to the same care givers.
3. Gowns may be worn when moving from a COVID+ patient to another COVID+ patient and when moving from a PUI to a COVID+ patient, but NOT from a COVID+ patient to a PUI.
4. N95 respirators, face masks and face shields are to be used per extended use language under #4 of the PPE Policy - Inpatient & Ambulatory, available on the COVID-19 Clinical Resources site. The PPE FAQ on the website also provides additional clarity.
5. Respiratory PPE must be used in patient care areas at all times consistent with the current PPE guidelines, which are available on the COVID-19 Clinical Resources site.
6. Gowns
   a. Gowns are to be worn when direct patient care is provided or contact with the environment (when brushing up against items in the room is unavoidable).
   b. Gowns are not required to be worn into the room if direct patient care is not being provided and physical contact with objects in the environment is avoidable.
   c. Gowns should be changed if soiled, ripped or torn.

NOTE: Respirators, masks and eye protection are to be recycled at the end of the shift.

YNHHS Clinical Resources website: