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COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines for the Home Health Aide

April 22, 2020

REMINDER



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Before providing care, screen your patient AND family members for COVID-19:

1. Ask if the patient has fever, cough or shortness of breath?
2. If YES to these questions please call your manager immediately.

PPE Donning Guidelines for Direct Patient Care

Routine Patient Care in The Home/Hospice Protocol

For the patient who is COVID-19 Positive

- Surgical Face Mask
- Gloves
- Gown

Please Wear
This PPE

These patients were discharged from the hospital or nursing home to home care.

- At least **7** days since they had symptoms

AND

- At least 48-72 hours since fever is resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications

AND

- Overall improvement in illness (e.g. improving cough, shortness of breath).



PPE Donning Guidelines for Direct Patient Care

For the patient with a NEW diagnosis of COVID-19

USE THE RESPIRATOR/MASK FOR THESE PATIENTS

- Respirator/Mask
- Gloves
- Gown
- Eye Protection – Face shield or goggles

Please Wear
This PPE



- These patients may have been seen in the Emergency Room/Clinic and released home, and they were told that they are now COVID-19 positive.
- These patients may report symptoms of **FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH.**

Respirator/Mask Instructions

A **Respirator/Mask** is a tight-fitting face cover that protects you from very small particles in the air. It should fit the face tightly. A respirator/mask is for increased protection. You should wear this respirator/mask only when caring for patients.

Putting on the Respirator/Mask

- Make sure the respirator/mask does not have holes or broken straps before putting it on.
- Make sure it fits correctly.
- Nose and mouth must be completely covered.



- Create a tight seal by molding the respirator/mask over the bridge of your nose.
- Press all around the edges of the respirator/mask to be sure it is tight against your face.



- Breathe out against the respirator/mask; if you feel air leaking on the sides, adjust the straps for a better seal.
- Cover the respirator/mask with a surgical face mask/ear loop mask if you are **NOT** wearing a face shield.



Plus Face Shield or Face Mask

Taking off and Storing the Respirator/Mask

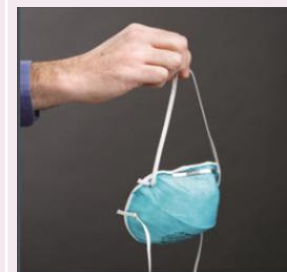
- Clean your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before taking off the respirator/mask.
- **DO NOT** touch the front of the respirator/mask during care.



- Tilt your head forward and remove the respirator/mask by pulling the bottom strap over the back of your head
- While holding the bottom strap in front of you, pull the top strap over your head.



- Keep your hands only on the straps and keep the straps tight.
- Put it in a dry paper bag for storage between patient visits.
- **RE-USE respirator/mask** and store between patient visits.



The Respirator/Mask is to be used for COVID-19 patients or those who have Fever, Cough and Shortness of Breath

Clean your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before putting on the respirator/mask

After you have put on the respirator/mask you must perform a negative/positive seal check by doing the following:

- Breath out – the respirator/mask should expand slightly, no air should be felt around the sides of the respirator/mask while blowing out. If you feel air coming out it is not a tight enough seal, re-adjust the respirator/mask and try again.
- Breath in - when taking a small breath in, the respirator/mask should pucker in slightly.
- If not a tight seal, re-position and re-adjust the nose clip and try again.
- Ensure you can breath thru the respirator/mask.
- Once the respirator/mask is put on and the seal check is performed, next put on a surgical/ear loop mask over the respirator/mask to protect it from getting soiled.

During patient care, ensure that you DO NOT TOUCH the respirator/mask, Surgical Mask or Face Shield as the front of your protective equipment may be contaminated

Steps to Follow for Taking off the Respirator/Mask



After completing patient care choose an area as far away from the patient as possible to remove your PPE.

1. Remove your soiled/dirty gloves.
2. Clean your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer then put on new gloves.
3. Remove the face shield by holding the side straps, or
4. Remove the surgical ear loop mask and discard this mask.
5. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
6. Put on new gloves. Tilt your head forward and remove the respirator/mask by pulling the bottom strap over the back of your head.
7. While holding the bottom strap in front of you, pull the top strap over your head.
8. Put the respirator/mask in a dry paper bag for storage between patient visits.

Storage of Previously Worn Respirator/Mask

- After removing respirator/mask, visually inspect for contamination, creased or bent in shape/form. If contaminated/wet, creased or bent, the respirator/mask should be discarded.
- If the respirator/mask is **NOT** visibly contaminated or creased, bent.
 - Carefully store to avoid the respirator/mask getting crushed.
 - The respirator/mask should be stored in a well-ventilated container (i.e., paper bag) with your name & date on the outside of the bag. **DO NOT STORE IN A PLASTIC BAG.**
- The respirator/mask can be worn for several hours and multiple shifts if not wet or crushed and not involved in any type of respiratory treatments which would cause the respirator/mask to become contaminated.

Remember to dispose of all the used PPE in the home

DO NOT WEAR the respirator/mask outside of the home

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THANK YOU