



Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for a known or suspected COVID-19 patient

Please note: At this time, due to limited PPE, all staff that have patient contact or their treatment environment will be issued a N-95 mask that will be used in place of a facemask in accordance to CDC Guidelines. The N-95 should be re-used intermittently throughout your shift, stored in a paper bag after use and discarded daily. If it is soiled or used for aerosol-generating procedures (IE: nebulizers, intubation, etc.), it should be discarded immediately after use in a regular trashcan with a lid outside the patient care area.

A few Frequently Asked Questions and Answers are listed below for your reference:

- **Question: Do I need to be fitted with the N95 prior to use?**
- **Answer: Yes, you should have a N-95 issued to you by Employee Health if you work in patient care areas, however, for uses outside aerosol-generating procedures, an N-95 is not needed. SCAHC is utilizing N-95s for staff for COVID19 due to low volume of surgical mask availability.**

- **Question: Should I wear my mask continuously throughout my shift?**
- **Answer: No, unless you have contact with a suspected COVID19 patient, you should not be wearing a mask, however continue standard precautions and good hand hygiene practices. If the patient is suspected for COVID19 infection, mask them with a surgical mask immediately and place them in a room with a door, preferably the negative pressure isolation room if available. If not available, place them in a waiting area, at least 6 feet from other patients.**

- **Question: Is all the PPE required for all contacts as outlined on the guide?**
- **Answer: Yes, all PPE shall be utilized as outlined on the guide.**

If you have any questions, please call the on-call Infection Control RN at (928) 200-5902.

Thank you for your contribution to fight the spread of COVID19.
Stay well.

Best regards,
Kristin Grimes, RN, MSN, CIC
Interim Infection Control Officer