

# PPE Conservation – In Times of Need

## CRITICAL UPDATES FOR: All Samaritan Health Services Employees

- Masks will not be stored in kiosks
- Managers are expected to manage PPE for their departments.
- No PPE can leave facility.
- **Face mask Extended Use & Reuse Policies do not apply to the Universal Mask.**
- Face masks/procedure masks and N95 respirators:
  - Can be used for **extended periods** without removal between patients.
  - Can be reused for **up to five times** (or more, if instructed by the Coronavirus Task Force).
  - **A face shield should be worn over the mask (if available) as eye protection and to extend the use of the mask**
- Face masks/procedure masks should NOT be reused or used for further extended use if:
  - Visibly soiled
  - Damaged
- N95 masks should NOT be reused or used for extended use if:
  - Hard to breathe through
  - Seal cannot be maintained
  - Used for an aerosolizing procedure
  - Visibly soiled
- Changes to current isolation practices:
  - MRSA and VRE active, contained infections: Isolation gowns will no longer be used
  - MRSA pneumonia: Face masks will no longer be used
  - All pre-existing precautions for enteric, droplet, airborne and enhanced contact remain in place
- **Disinfect** eye protection and face shields between patients if reused.
- Visitors (if allowed) will no longer wear PPE when visiting patients in contact isolation. Visitors to rooms under other precautions should wear the appropriate PPE.

**NOTICE:** Reuse of face masks and N95 respirators must be done with great care to avoid contamination of the insides of these devices. Hand hygiene should be performed after touching external surfaces. Store devices in a breathable container or sealed paper bag in a manner that identifies the user.

### DISCLAIMER:

- To access detailed policy, go to the [Emerging Pathogens webpage](#) on the SHS Insider.
- If policy abstract is more than 2 days past the latest updated date, refer to the [Emerging Pathogens webpage](#) on the SHS Insider to ensure no changes have been made.