APPLICATION
All Samaritan Health Services (SHS) employees.

POLICY
It is the policy of Samaritan Health Services (SHS) to protect the health and safety of its employees by 1) eliminating hazardous exposures where feasible; 2) using engineering and administrative controls to minimize hazardous exposures that cannot be eliminated; and 3) using respiratory protection and other personal protective equipment when the frequency and duration of exposures cannot be substantially reduced or eliminated. When respiratory protection is required, as outlined in the SHS Respiratory Protection for Exposure to Airborne Diseases Policy & Procedure, respirators will be provided at no cost to employees. In accordance with the SHS Respiratory Protection Program Policy & Procedure, a Sentinel XL™ HP Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) may be available as an alternative to a N95 respirator.

PROCEDURE
DEFINITIONS:
1. Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIR) – Formerly, negative pressure isolation room, an AIIR is a single-occupancy patient-care room used to isolate persons with a suspected or confirmed airborne infectious disease.
2. Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) – A complete PAPR system is comprised of a battery pack, charger, blower unit, appropriate cartridge/filter combination, breathing tube, waist belt, flow meter and head cover. This National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved system can offer respiratory protection against certain airborne contaminants including asbestos and airborne biohazards, allowing freedom of movement for up to 8 hours of continuous use.

IMPLEMENTATION:
1. PAPRs will be used by employees who:
   A. Fail the qualitative fit test due to inability to taste sensitivity solution,
   B. Failed the fit test due to air leakage around the tight-fitting face piece,
   C. Medical evaluation does not allow tight fitting respirator use,
   D. Choose to wear a respirator, even though a respirator is not required by SHS or by any Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard (see SHS Voluntary Use of Sentinel XL PAPR When Handling PeridoxRTU Work Instruction), or
   E. Participate in the Decon Team

2. Employee Health & Safety Responsibilities
   A. Conduct annual training for employees identified as PAPR users
   B. Maintain record of employees trained to use PAPR units

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C. Perform monthly audits of PAPR storage areas (hospital only)
D. Designate a clean and sanitary environment for PAPR storage
E. Conduct just-in-time training when the need presents

3. Employee Responsibilities
   A. Attend annual Employee Health & Safety training sessions and notify manager/supervisor if additional training is needed
   B. Use the PAPR in the manner in which they have been trained
   C. Complete the PAPR Tracking Log each time the PAPR is donned and doffed
   D. Follow manufacturer’s cleaning and care guidelines
   E. PAPR head covers are for exclusive use of an employee and shall be labeled with the employee’s name
   F. Store cleaned PAPR and head cover in designated storage area
   G. Place blower, with attached battery pack, on charger
   H. Report problems and deficiencies of the unit, including replacement component needs, to manager/supervisor or designee

4. Manager/Supervisor Responsibilities
   A. Ensure employees store and maintain personal head covers
   B. Ensure employees are aware of PAPR location
   C. Ensure employees complete annual Employee Health & Safety training
   D. Purchase replacement head covers as needed
   E. Request replacement components (battery packs, chargers, blower units, HEPA cartridge/filters, waist belts, flow meters and breathing tubes) from Employee Health & Safety as needed
      i. Departments utilizing Organic Vapor/Acid Gas Cartridges will be responsible for purchasing these cartridges
   F. Report maintenance issues identified by employee to Plant Engineering

5. Clinic Manager/Supervisor Responsibilities
   A. In addition to the manager/supervisor responsibilities listed above, clinic manager/supervisor must perform quarterly battery reconditioning:
      i. Fully charge 5 hours
      ii. Discharge until low voltage alarm sounds
      iii. Charge for 2 hours

6. Plant Engineering Responsibilities
   A. Rectify maintenance issues identified by user departments

7. Guidelines on PAPR use
   A. PAPRs will be used with patients in AIIR according to the SHS Respiratory Protection for Exposure to Airborne Diseases Policy & Procedure
   B. Employees must not remove the respirator while in a hazardous environment
   C. PAPRs are not to be used in sterile environments
   D. Cartridges must be NIOSH-approved and selected according to the type of contaminant
   E. HEPA cartridges are indicated for use in clinical areas and may be used as long as adequate airflow is maintained through the PAPR unit. To ensure that airflow requirements are met, the airflow should be tested using a flow meter, prior to each use. If the airflow requirements are not met, the...
HEPA cartridges may need to be replaced and airflow testing repeated. Assemble the PAPR system following the assembly instructions provided during training.

F. Inspect the respirator thoroughly each time the respirator is used.
G. Don the respirator in a clean area.
H. The employee must leave the contaminated area immediately if:
   1) damage to the PAPR occurs,
   2) the airflow decreases or stops,
   3) the low battery alarm signals,
   4) breathing becomes difficult,
   5) the employee starts to feel dizzy or vision becomes impaired,
   6) the employee experiences irritation to the face, nose or mouth, or
   7) if the employee suspects the concentration of the contaminants has exceeded the protection of the PAPR.
I. Cleaning
   1) PAPR head covers are to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use. The outside of the head cover and unit must be wiped down with a disinfectant solution/germicidal/tuberculocidal disposable Sani-Cloth (quaternary ammonia or other solution approved by Infection Prevention).
   2) After each use, inspect the head cover for signs of damage or wear.
J. Charging
   1) For rechargeable batteries
      i. After use the PAPR should be placed back on the charger. Plug the charger into the back of the PAPR unit and ensure that the charger plug is connected to the outlet. The charger light will be red while charging and flashing green when fully charged.
      ii. A fully charged PAPR will provide approximately 8 hours of battery life.
      iii. A low-voltage alarm will sound when approximately 30 minutes of battery life remain.
   2) For D-Cell batteries
      i. A PAPR with D-Cell batteries will provide approximately 8 hours of battery life before needing to be replaced.
      ii. A low-voltage alarm will sound when approximately 30 minutes of battery life remain.
      iii. Before replacing batteries, disconnect the battery connector from the PAPR unit. Place 5 new D-Cell batteries in the PAPR battery pack and reconnect the battery connector to the PAPR unit.

REFERENCES
- SHS Policies:
  - Respiratory Protection for Exposure to Airborne Diseases
  - Respiratory Protection Program
- SHS Work Instruction: Voluntary Use of Sentinel XL PAPR When Handling PeridoxRTU
- PAPR Tracking Log

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY

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<tr>
<th>Date of Revision</th>
<th>Revision #</th>
<th>Revision / Review</th>
<th>Revision Description</th>
<th>Collaborated With (i.e. Standardization Committee, VP’s, Quality, Risk)</th>
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<td>03/21/2013</td>
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<td>Cleaning/disinfecting instructions updated.</td>
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<td>05/22/2014</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>Updated language to be consistent with practices. Added a line regarding cleaning of the face shield.</td>
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<td>05/19/2016</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>Added reference to <em>SHS Respiratory Protection for Exposure to Airborne Diseases Policy &amp; Procedure</em>.</td>
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<td>02/06/2020</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Removed mention of discontinued PAPR units. Updated language to be consistent with practices. Minor formatting and grammatical edits.</td>
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<td>03/26/2020</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td>Removed Emergency Management responsibilities. Updated guidelines for HEPA cartridge service life to reflect changing recommendations from SAIF Industrial Hygienist and subject matter experts. Added clarification for charging of units with rechargeable batteries, and rotation of D-cell batteries for non-rechargeable units.</td>
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