**COVID-19**

**PPE Policy and Procedure**

**During COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Policy**

It is the policy of this facility that personal protective equipment will be used consistent with current guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal and State guidance.

**Definition**

“**Personal protective equipment (PPE)”** refers to protective items or garments worn to protect the body or clothing from hazards that can cause injury and to protect residents from cross-transmission.”1

**Overview**

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, guidance on PPE has been revised due to updated information, supply chain concerns and research on SARS-Co-V-2 (COVID-19).

**Procedure**

1. If resident is not suspected of having COVID-19, based on symptom and exposure history, staff to follow Standard Precautions (unless resident is on Transmission-based Precautions based on suspected or confirmed diagnosis)
2. When caring for a resident suspected of or confirmed with COVID-19, all staff, are required to use the following PPE when entering the room:
   1. NIOSH approved N95 or higher respirator
      1. N95 should be used consistent with the facility respiratory protection program
   2. Eye protection (goggles or face shield that covers the front and sides of the face)
   3. Gown
   4. Gloves
3. Sequence of donning (putting on) PPE includes:
   1. PPE must be donned prior to entering the resident room, remain in place and worn properly the entire time employee is in the resident room and should not be adjusted during resident care
   2. Gather all required PPE
   3. Perform hand hygiene
      1. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
   4. Don isolation gown, and properly tie all ties
   5. Don N95 respirator properly, if nosepiece is present fit to nose with both hands, extend under chin in order for both mouth and nose to be protected. Perform seal check/fit check.
   6. Don eye protection (face shield or goggles that cover the front and side of the face).
      1. Notify supervisor if N95 respirator interferes with proper fit of eye protection
   7. Don gloves, covering wrist of the isolation gown
   8. Employee/individual may now enter resident room
4. Sequence for doffing (taking off) PPE:
   1. Remove gloves taking care not to contaminate hands (i.e., glove-in-glove procedure) and dispose in trash receptacle.
      1. If hands become contaminated, immediately perform hand hygiene
   2. Remove gown by untying all ties (or breaking ties depending on manufacturer’s instructions). From the shoulders, pull gown down with care, away from the body and roll to prevent contamination and dispose in trash receptacle.
   3. Exit resident room
   4. Perform hand hygiene
   5. Remove eye protection by carefully grabbing by the strap and pulling upwards and away from head without touching the front of the eye protection. Follow facility process for discarding in waste receptacle or identified container for reprocessing
   6. Remove N95, using care not to touch the front of the respirator, grasping the strap and bring over the head, pulling away from the face. Discard in trash receptacle after resident care encounter.
      1. A new N95 should be donned for any other resident use/encounter as required
   7. Perform hand hygiene
5. If a N95 or higher respirator, a respirator approved by standards in another country that are similar to N-95, a barrier face covering that meets ASTM F3502-21 requirements or a well-fitting facemask is used solely for source control, they can be used for an entire shift unless soiled, damaged or hard to breathe through.

**References**

1Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. State Operations Manual. Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities, Advanced Copy, 06/29/22: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/appendix-pp-guidance-surveyor-long-term-care-facilities.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic), Updated Sept. 23, 2022: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) When Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Factsheet. CS316124: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/communication/print-resources/A_FS_HCP_COVID19_PPE_card.pdf>

United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard 1910 Respiratory Protection: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>