



## Conventional PPE Strategy Guidelines

Due to personal protective equipment (PPE) now being largely available for purchase, facilities are expected to be using conventional capacity PPE strategies.

### **Guidance when NOT in outbreak status:**

- Communities with *minimal to no* community transmission: adhere to [Standard](#) and [Transmission-Based Precautions](#) (TBP) based on anticipated exposures and suspected or confirmed diagnoses. PPE use may include eye protection, N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator, and other PPE. Universal use of well-fitting facemask for source control continues to be recommended for health care personnel (HCP) if not wearing a respirator mask.
- Communities with *moderate to substantial* community transmission: follow Standard Precautions (and Transmission-Based Precautions) based on the suspected diagnosis which includes using an N95 respirator or equivalent and face protection for applicable situations with increased risk of pathogen transmission.

Definition of community transmission can be determined by using CMS's color-coding methodology.

0-5% = Green (No to Minimal Transmission)

5-10% = Yellow (Moderate Transmission)

>10% = Red (Substantial Transmission)

**Guidance during Outbreak Status:** (*Outbreak is defined as a single new case of COVID-19 in a staff person or nursing home onset infection in a resident.*)

CDC recommends that HCP should care for all residents using N95/respirators, eye protection, gloves, and gowns.

- This includes anywhere direct care is provided, including dining rooms, therapy rooms, etc.

### **Notes:**

- KN95 masks are to be used in the same fashion as a surgical mask and are not considered respirators. Many [KN95s are counterfeit](#) and should not be used.
- The FDA issued a [letter to health care professionals](#) outlining their expectation for all respirators to be NIOSH-approved.
- Eye protection can be either goggles or a face shield that covers both the front and side of the HCP face.
- The CDC recommends residents continue to wear a mask anytime they are out of their rooms despite vaccination status. Exceptions include while eating and drinking with other fully-vaccinated residents or while participating in an activity where all persons involved are also fully-vaccinated.
- If your facility is experiencing a PPE shortage, documentation of the following should be maintained while adhering to [Optimization Strategies](#):

- All efforts used to obtain PPE including sources outside of the usual supply network.
- Notification of state/local public health departments of shortage and request for assistance.

Providers are strongly encouraged to read the [CDC's Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Nursing Homes](#) and other additional guidance.

Masks Defined			
	Disposable/Procedure Mask	Surgical Mask	N95 Respirator
Description	A mask that covers the user's nose and mouth and may or may not meet fluid barrier or filtration efficiency levels. Face masks may be used by the general public and health care personnel as source control in accordance with CDC recommendations.	A mask that covers the user's nose and mouth and provides a physical barrier to fluids and particulate materials. The mask meets certain fluid barrier protection standards and Class I or Class II flammability tests. While surgical masks may be effective in blocking splashes and large-particle droplets, they do not provide complete protection from germs and other contaminants because of the loose fit between the surface of the mask and your face.	N95s and surgical N95s, filter at least 95 percent of airborne particles. They are PPE that tightly fit the face and provide certain filtration efficiency levels to help reduce wearer exposure to pathogenic airborne particles in a health care setting. They provide a higher level of protection against viruses and bacteria when properly fit-tested.
Can it be used for Source Control?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appropriate Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine tasks and patient care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine tasks and patient care</li> <li>• Transmission-based precautions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During all aerosol-generating procedures (nebulizers, high flow O2, etc.)</li> <li>• When caring for residents with suspected or known COVID-19</li> </ul>
Authorization Required	None	FDA-approved	NIOSH certified
When to dispose	When dirty, damaged, or at the end of the shift	When dirty, damaged or end of the shift	After each patient encounter (unless being used solely for source control)
Fit testing required	No	No	Yes