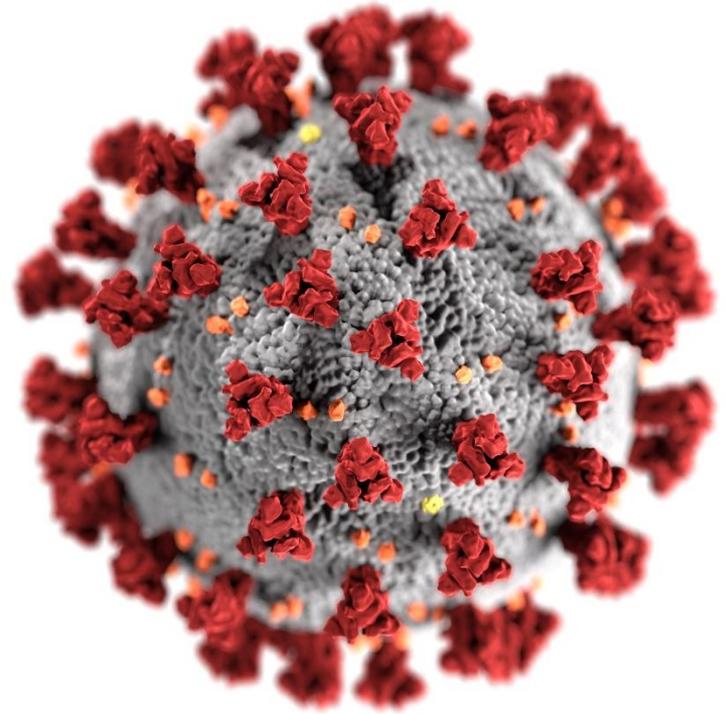


Operational Considerations for Optimizing PPE Use during COVID-19

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Global Webinar Series

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cdc.gov/coronavirus

Disclosure

I have no financial relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare-related products and/or services.

Objectives

- Review **key terms and definitions** for today's session
- Provide brief overview of **key resources** for optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) during the response to COVID-19

Operational Considerations for Optimizing PPE Use during COVID-19

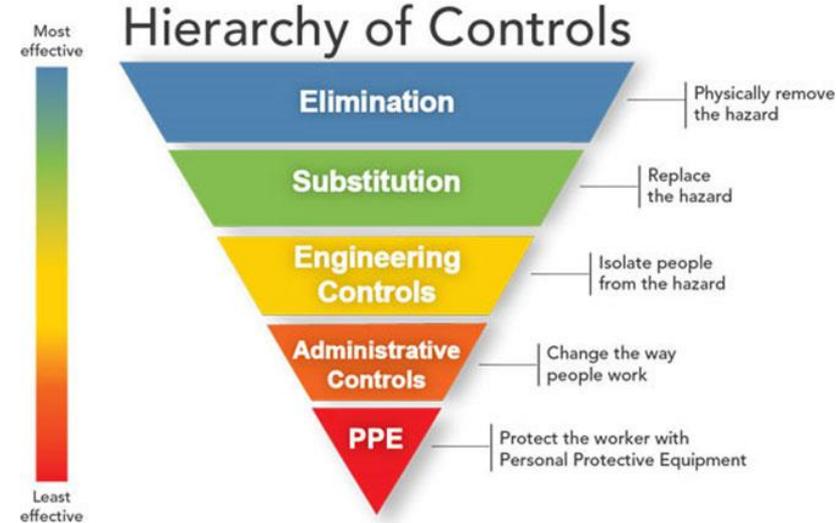
- **Rational and appropriate use** is standard practice.
 - Indications for PPE should be based on the setting, target audience, risk of exposure (e.g., type of activity) and the transmission dynamics of the pathogen (e.g., contact, droplet, or aerosol).
 - **The overuse or misuse of PPE will have a further impact on supply shortages.**
- **Temporary measures or emergency strategies** are approaches that deviate from standard practice.
 - **They should always be based on scientific evidence (where possible), the principles of safe care delivery, and health care safety.**



Disclaimer

CDC and WHO do not recommend or endorse any strategies for personal protective equipment (PPE) use that differ from standard infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

*In times of crisis and global supply shortages, **temporary measures** or **emergency strategies** may be considered. However, efforts to scale up rapid production of PPE should be prioritized.*



PPE Shortage Scenarios

- **Limited supplies:** Where recommended PPE for direct clinical care is still available, but the supply is insufficient to enable full adherence to standard IPC practice. Strategies to *conserve supplies* under this scenario include extended use and reuse.
- **No PPE available:** Where recommended PPE for direct clinical care is NOT available, during acute supply shortages. Strategies under this scenario include potential alternatives to recommended PPE **as a last resort** during a crisis where standard PPE is not available.

Definitions

- **Extended use:** Use of PPE by one healthcare worker (HCW) among multiple patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (one donning and doffing).
- **Reuse:** Use of PPE by one HCW among multiple patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (multiple donning and doffing), with decontamination/reprocessing in between.*
- **Potential alternatives:** Use of alternative items (e.g., disposable laboratory coats in lieu of isolation gowns) to recommended PPE as a last resort during a crisis where standard PPE is not available.

*In the case of N95 respirators, limited reuse without reprocessing in between is an emergency strategy.

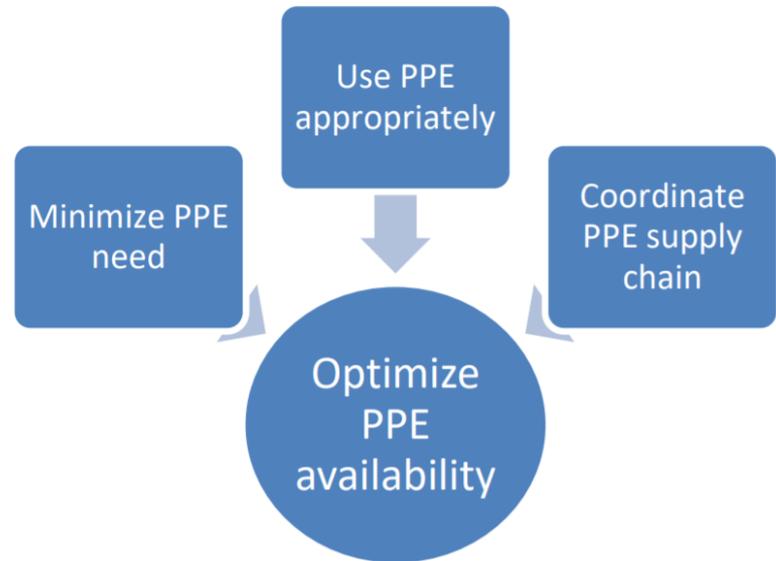
Key Resources – WHO

WHO's guidance on the [Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) includes:

- strategies to optimize the availability of PPE
- a summary of **temporary measures** during severe shortage of PPE

Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages

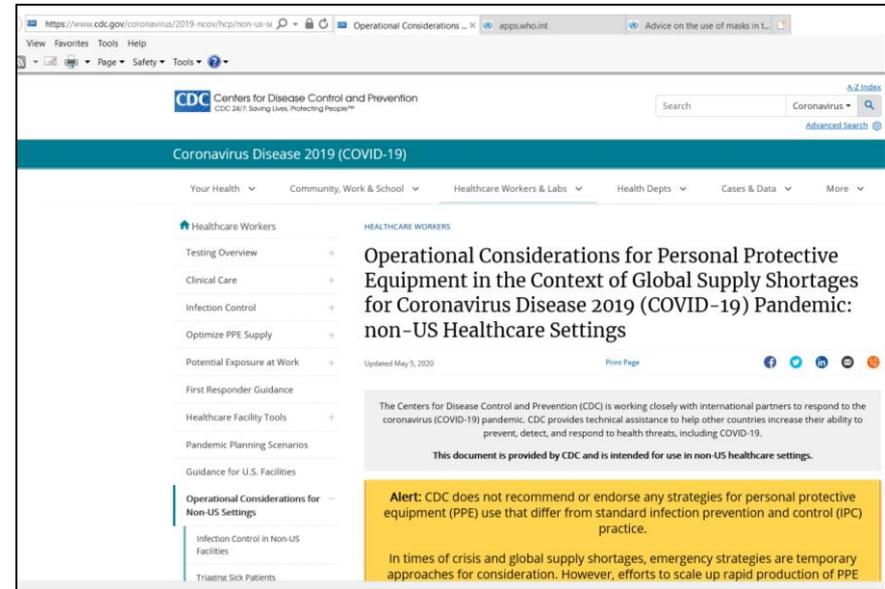
Interim guidance
6 April 2020



Key Resources – CDC

The [Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Global Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: non-US Healthcare Settings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-14)

- draws from CDC strategies for US-healthcare settings on [COVID-19: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/strategies-for-optimizing-the-supply-of-ppe)



The screenshot shows the CDC website interface. The main heading is "Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Global Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: non-US Healthcare Settings". Below the heading, there is a date "Updated May 3, 2020" and a "Print Page" link. A yellow alert box contains the following text: "Alert: CDC does not recommend or endorse any strategies for personal protective equipment (PPE) use that differ from standard infection prevention and control (IPC) practice. In times of crisis and global supply shortages, emergency strategies are temporary approaches for consideration. However, efforts to scale up rapid production of PPE".

NOTE: This should always be reviewed alongside WHO guidance.

References

WHO, 2020. Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331695/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_PPE_use-2020.3-eng.pdf

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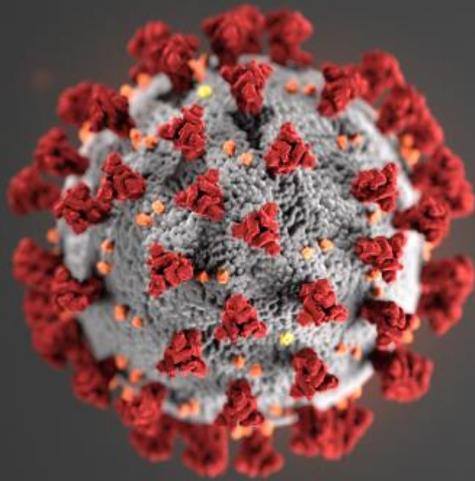
CDC, 2020. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

CDC, 2020. Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html>

CDC/NIOSH, 2020. Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

NIOSH, 2020 NIOSH-Approved N95 Particulate Filtering Facepiece Respirators. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/n95list1.html

3M, 2020. <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/17915000/comparison-ffp2-kn95-n95-filtering-facepiece-respirator-classes-tb.pdf>



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

