

# Extended Use of PPE: Cohorting COVID-19 Patients

Generally, personal protective equipment (PPE) is intended to be used for only one patient encounter. However, when caring for patients with the same contagious diagnosis, it is sometimes acceptable to use PPE for an extended period. If you are caring for **laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patients in close proximity**, then consecutive tasks can be completed on these patients without full change of PPE. This does not apply to COVID+ patients with other diagnosis requiring PPE (MRSA, VRE, C-diff, etc).

- **Consecutive Tasks:** staff don PPE, care for a COVID-confirmed patient, exit the room (do not touch anything outside of the rooms), **change gloves and perform hand hygiene between every patient**, do not perform any other tasks outside of the room, and then enter another COVID-confirmed patient room without having to change gown, mask, or eye protection (or PAPR, if used).
- **Gown, mask, and eye protection should be changed after seeing four consecutive patients.** A PAPR, however, can be used continuously until all cohorted patients are seen consecutively.
- When removed, PPE should be discarded in a dedicated container for waste with a red bag.
- The trash receptacle should be positioned at the point of “exit” of each room.



PPE	Usage While Cohorting
Gloves	single use, don new set with each patient encounter. Perform hand hygiene before donning and after doffing.
Gown	used continuously across four (4) patient encounters unless damaged, moist, or soiled.
Surgical Mask	used continuously across four (4) patient encounters unless damaged, moist, or soiled. Avoid touching the exterior of the mask.
Mask & Splashguard	used continuously across four (4) patient encounters unless damaged, moist, or soiled. Personal glasses/contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
N95	used continuously across four (4) patient encounters unless damaged, moist, or soiled.
Goggles	used continuously for up to four (4) patient encounters. Wipe down with a purple top wipe after removal and allow to air dry (noting disinfectant kill time). Reuse after dry or store in plastic bag for later use. Personal glasses/contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
Full Face Shield	used continuously for up to four (4) patient encounters. Wipe down with a purple top wipe after removal and allow to air dry (noting disinfectant kill time). Reuse after dry or store in plastic bag for later use. Personal glasses/contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.