

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Inpatient Cohorting

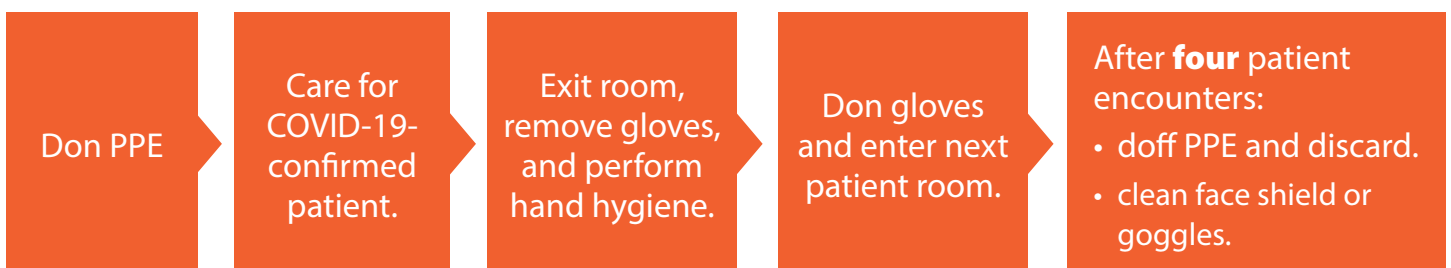


Extended PPE Use in Inpatient Cohorting Units

Areas must be **approved by Infection Prevention** to practice extended PPE use.

Typically, PPE is intended 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 (C-diff, multi-drug resistant organism).

- **Consecutive tasks:** don PPE, care for a COVID-confirmed patient, exit the room (do not touch anything outside of the room and do not perform any other tasks outside of the room), **change gloves and perform hand hygiene between every patient**, 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 with a red waste bag.**
- The trash receptacle should be positioned at the point of "exit" of each room.



PPE	Usage In Approved Cohorting Units
Gloves	single use, don new set with each patient encounter . Perform hand hygiene before donning and after doffing.
Gown	use continuously across four patient encounters unless damaged, moist, or soiled.
N95	use continuously across four patient encounters unless damaged, wet, soiled, or the seal is lost. Then discard.
Goggles or Full Face Shield	used continuously for up to four patient encounters. Wipe down with a hospital-approved disinfectant 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.