

## CARE of PPE in Office 9/17/20

Reprocessing (cleaning) and reusing disposable Personal Protection Equipment for one Health Care Worker (HCW) for a limited time-period (multiple shifts) is not consistent with best practices and therefore is not recommended. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, PPE is extremely difficult to obtain, the following CDC guidelines are being adopted:

### A. Face Shield - will be **dedicated to one HCW**

- Will be cleaned immediately when they are visibly soiled and at the end of the shift (*See Cleansing Protocol*).
- At the end of the shift, the clean face shield should be stored in a transparent plastic container and **labeled with the HCW name** to prevent accidental sharing between HCW or placed into your mailbox with outer portion of the face shield facing up.
- **Note:** The number of times a disposable face shield could potentially be reprocessed is unknown; therefore, face shields should be closely examined prior to each reuse to ensure the integrity of the foam pad, elastic strap, and clarity of the visor.

### B. Material Mask and Surgical Mask – **will be dedicated to one HCW**

- Will be removed immediately when they are visibly soiled and a clean mask will be applied. The removed mask will be cleaned per *Cleansing Protocol* prior to use again.

### C. N95 Mask - **will be dedicated to one HCW**

- Will only be removed and replaced if it becomes visibly soiled or if the seal cannot be maintained. The N95 mask will then be thrown away in an appropriate garbage receptacle. A new N95 mask will be put on.

### D. Gown - **will be dedicated to one HCW**

- Will only be removed if it becomes visibly soiled and not able to be cleaned or if the gown becomes compromised and cannot keep worker safe. A new gown will be put on.
- Will be removed at minimum while on break and in an approved area, while eating and at the end of a shift. Please see *Cleaning Guideline*

### E. Gloves – are single use and will not be dedicated to one HCW

- Will be removed and replaced if they become visibly soiled, if they become contaminated by touching someone or by touching contaminated objects, before eating, before going to the bathroom and at the end of the shift. This list is not ALL inclusive.

### E. Head Covers and Foot Covers – are single use and will not be dedicated to one HCW

- Will be removed and replaced if they become visibly soiled, if they become contaminated by touching someone or by touching contaminated objects and at the end of the shift. This list is not ALL inclusive.