

PPE Update : March 14, 2020

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, we remain in constant contact with national, state, and local authorities for guidance on how we can best protect our providers to allow you to continue to protect our community. At present, it seems likely that the COVID-19 virus will continue to remain active for some months requiring us to develop new strategies to meet these new challenges.

Each company has been issued reusable goggles for use on confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients. These goggles meet current CDC guidance for COVID-19 PPE and feature:

- Anti-Fog & Anti-Scratch Coating
- Indirect venting to allow air to circulate and help reduce fogging
- D3 (droplet and splash) and D4 (dust) rated
- Polycarbonate lens absorbs 99.9% UVA & UVB and meet the requirements of ANSI Z87.1-2015 Standard as an Impact Rated spectacle

We're only able to secure a limited quantity of these goggles. For this reason, these goggles are not individually issued. They are designed to be reused and should stay with the rig.

After each use, please place the goggles in a Ziploc bag and return to your station for cleaning.

Standard Eyewear Cleaning and Disinfection Steps – Reusable goggles or Reusable safety glasses

1. Disposable exam gloves should be worn during cleaning as well as other personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated.
2. Clean eyewear by immersing it in a warm cleaning solution, water temperature not to exceed 120 °F (49 °C) and scrub with soft cloth until clean.
3. Add neutral detergent if necessary. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils.
4. Spray eyewear with PureGreen 24 and let sit for 10 minutes.
5. Rinse thoroughly with fresh warm water.
6. Air dry in a non-contaminated area.
7. Place back on unit for reuse.

In order to preserve our inventory as long as possible as well as protect responders, we're adopting new CDC guidelines regarding the re-use of N95 masks.

When/How to Reuse N95

- Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the respirator.
- Avoid touching the inside of the respirator.
- If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, perform hand hygiene as described above.
- Clearly write your name on a clean paper bag.
- Place the used respirator in a clean paper bag between uses.
- Document the date/time of each use of the N95 on the outside of the paper bag.
- Store respirators between uses so that they do not become damaged or deformed.
- Do not reuse an N95 that has been worn by someone else.

When to Discard N95

- Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures.
- Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.
- Discard any N95 that has been used 5 times.
- Discard any respirator that is obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through.
- Replace the paper bag each time you deploy a new N95.

Please use appropriate PPE only when indicated. We have a finite inventory of disposable PPE and it is unlikely that vendors/manufacturers will be able to meet the backorder demands for these items before this pandemic resolves. Please follow this link if you would like to review proper donning and doffing of PPE. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxdaSeq4EVU>

All public safety agencies are working tirelessly to develop solutions to meet the constantly evolving challenges related to this pandemic. We would like to assist if at all possible and, to that end, all COVID-19 information provided to PFA personnel can be accessed at <https://www.nlcera.com/copy-of-protocols>.