

# FIRST RESPONDERS: CDC GUIDANCE

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



First Responders who will directly care for a patient with possible COVID-19 infection or who will be in the compartment with the patient should follow standard precautions and use the PPE as described below. *Updated 3/31/2020.*

- » N-95 or higher-level respirator or facemask (if a respirator is not available) should be worn.
- » N95 respirators or respirators that offer a higher level of protection should be used instead of a facemask when performing or present for an aerosol-generating procedure.
- » Facemasks are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain of N-95 availability is restored.
- » Respirators should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols.

- » A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves should be worn. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated.

- » All First Responders should avoid touching their face while working.



- » Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face). Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are **NOT** considered adequate eye protection.

- » If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of First Responders.

- » A facemask should be worn by the patient for source control. If a nasal cannula is in place, a facemask should be worn over the nasal cannula.

## During Patient Transport..

- » Limit the number of providers in the patient compartment to essential personnel.
- » Drivers, if they provide direct patient care, should wear all recommended PPE. After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the compartment.
- » If the transport vehicle does *not* have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove the face shield or goggles, gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene. A respirator or facemask should continue to be used during transport.



On arrival at the destination facility, after the patient is released to the facility, First Responders should remove and discard, or store and retain PPE in accordance with local applicable policies and perform hand hygiene.