



March 12, 2020

Dear Healthcare Facility,

This guidance is to recommend immediate actions for the conservation of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all healthcare facilities in the state of Ohio due to the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Below are references available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifying steps that can be taken to conserve PPE. The CDC has also provided guidance for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators through conventional, contingency, and crisis strategies. The definitions for conventional, contingency, and crisis set by CDC are as follow:

**Conventional:** In the continuum of care, measures can be categorized as conventional capacity, which consists of providing patient care without any change in daily practices. This set of controls should already be implemented in general infection prevention and control plans in healthcare settings.

**Strategies for hospitals operating at conventional capacity:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/conventional-capacity-strategies.html>

**Contingency:** In the continuum of care, measures can be categorized as contingency capacity, which may change daily practices but may not have any significant impact on the care delivered to the patient or the safety of the healthcare professional. Measures may be considered in the setting of a potential impending shortage of N95 respirators. The decision to implement these practices should be made on a case by case basis taking into account known characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 and local conditions (e.g., number of disposable N95 respirators available, current respirator usage rate, success of other respirator conservation strategies, etc.).

**Strategies for hospitals operating at contingency capacity:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/contingency-capacity-strategies.html>

**Crisis:** Crisis capacity or alternate strategies accompany and build on the conventional and contingency capacity strategies. Measures are *not* commensurate with current U.S. standards of care. However, individual measures or a combination of these measures may need to be considered during periods of expected or known N95 respirator shortages. It is important to consult with entities that include some combination of: local healthcare coalitions; federal, state, or local public health officials; appropriate state agencies that are managing the overall emergency response related to COVID-19. Even when state/local healthcare coalitions or public health authorities can shift resources between health care facilities, these strategies may still be necessary.

**Strategies for hospitals operating at crisis capacity:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/crisis-alternate-strategies.html>

Sincerely,

Mark Hurst, MD  
Medical Director  
Ohio Department of Health

Amy Andres  
Senior Vice President of Quality and Data  
Ohio Hospital Association

#### References

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