

Guidance Regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Conservation

As we all recognize; Supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns, masks, etc. are currently seeing shortages across the country, and the global demand for PPE is rising due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, and shortages are happening. Conserving PPE is essential to helping prepare.

- Staff caring for patients in isolation precautions should only include the minimum number of individuals necessary for ensuring proper patient care.
- **Only those staff need to wear the appropriate PPE.**
- Methods to help conserve the supply of N95 respirators for use when clinically needed, would be limiting annual respirator fit testing, and restricting N95 use to those that have been fit tested. Others can wear surgical/procedure masks. *See diagram below.*
- Gowns should only be used with suspected or known isolation patients.
- Surgical masks should be placed on any suspected or known isolation patients.

In the event of a critical shortage (less than 10 of any item) call:

NMDOH-BHEM PPE Task Force PPE Request # 505-476-8284

- NMDOH COVID19 website <https://cv.nmhealth.org/about-covid-19/>
- NM Department of Health (NMDOH) is currently staffing a Coronavirus Health Information Hotline at 1-855-600-3453.
- **For non-medical issues** such as questions about the impact of school closures and job issues a new **Coronavirus Information Hotline** has been set up at 1-833-551-0518 and visit newmexico.gov for more information.
- **Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

