

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

PPE Conservation Guidance for Pharmacy Sterile Compounding of Hazardous or Non-Hazardous



Audience: Pharmacy Colleagues

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COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Clinical and Operations

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What's Changed: USP has provided additional PPE conservation strategies for compounding.

Pharmacy Guidance Regarding PPE

USP has provided additional information about conservation of PPE during the current shortages.

<https://www.usp.org/sites/default/files/usp/document/our-impact/covid-19/covid-19-garb-and-ppe-shortages.pdf>

Additionally, state boards of pharmacy are providing recommendations. You must comply with the strictest recommendation of your state board of pharmacy, if any are provided.

Recommendations can be implemented by RHM's as needed, depending on local PPE supply availability.

Guidance for Non-Hazardous Compounding

Face Mask - USP Guidance

- If face masks are in short supply, they may be reused, and BUDs described in USP Operational Considerations for Sterile compounding during COVID-19 Pandemic may be applied if the face masks are:
 - Re-donned and reused by the same employee during the same work shift in the classified area or within the perimeter of the SCA
 - Not visibly soiled or known to be contaminated
- If face masks are not available, use clean fabric (polyester) to cover nose and mouth (e.g. washable face mask). Don a clean freshly laundered or sterilized face cover each time before entering the buffer room or SCA
- Do not enter the buffer room or the perimeter of the SCA without a face cover.

Gown Guidance

- Use clean, washable, dedicated non-disposable garments (e.g., gowns, lab coats). Long-sleeved garments are preferred, and if not available, wear sleeve covers. Preferably, wash garments after each shift or sooner when visibly soiled.

- Retain and reuse disposable gowns as long as they are intact and not visibly soiled. Preferably, discard used disposable gowns each day.
- Store garments in a manner that minimizes contamination.
- Maintain garments inside of classified area or within the perimeter of the segregated compounding area (SCA).

Head and Hair Cover Guidance

- Use clean fabric to cover head and hair. Preferably, wash after each shift or sooner when visibly soiled.

Shoe Cover Shortages Guidance

- Implement facility-dedicated shoes for the compounding area. Preferably, dedicated shoes should be cleaned regularly. Facility-dedicated means that they are dedicated to the interior of the pharmacy office, not “hospital dedicated.” They can be stored in the general pharmacy area.

Guidance for Hazardous Compounding

- Prioritize gowns and chemotherapy gloves for preparing antineoplastic agents in Table 1 of the NIOSH list.
- PPE is designed to minimize exposure of healthcare personnel to HDs. PPE should not be reused when compounding antineoplastic drugs in Table 1 of the NIOSH list.

Face Mask Guidance

- N95 respirators should be conserved for situations when there is a risk of aerosolization to the compounder (without barrier isolator)– e.g. Crushing tablets for suspension or tube administration of Table 1 medication
- Local sites will need to identify situations when there is a risk of aerosolization to employee
- N-95 respirators are not needed for routine HD compounding, provided you are compounding in a properly functioning and certified C-PEC.

Shoe Cover Shortage Guidance

- For Hazardous Compounding, wear facility-dedicated shoes. Don one pair of waterproof, seamless shoe covers with facility-dedicated shoes.

Additional Resources

<https://www.usp.org/sites/default/files/usp/document/our-impact/covid-19/covid-19-garb-and-ppe-shortages.pdf>

<https://nabp.pharmacy/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-CriticalPoint-Strategies-to-Cope-with-Garb-and-sIPA-Shortages-20200319-final.pdf>

<https://pharmacy.iowa.gov/press-release/2020-03-09/what-should-my-pharmacy-do-if-we-have-limited-supplies-compounding-garb>

