OPTIMIZING OUR N95 MASK SUPPLY
Rev: 03-06-2020

The following strategies assume: 1) we understand our current N95 inventory and supply chain; 2) we understand our N95 utilization rate; and 3) we are in communication with state and local public health partners.

Use of physical barriers
- Barriers such as glass or plastic windows can be an effective solution
- Health care workers (HCW) within 6 feet of symptomatic person do not need to wear a mask of any kind if there is a glass or plastic window separation

Limit the number of patients going to the hospital or outpatient setting
- Encourage patients to call the clinic prior to arrival for screening and so the patient can be directed to the most appropriate setting
  - Postpone and reschedule symptomatic patients who present for non-acute or elective purpose
  - Set up off-site flu testing site for symptomatic patients
    - A provider will call the patient with test results and provide recommendations for follow up as indicated

Only essential HCWs should enter patient care areas.
- Limiting the number of HCWs and patient contacts to those that are medically essential could limit the number of N95s used.

Limit face to face encounters with patients
- Minimize room entries and bundle care
  - For example, food trays are delivered by HCWs performing other care
- Alternate mechanisms for patient encounters include telephone, video monitoring, video-call applications on cell phones or tablets

Exclude symptomatic visitors
- Restrict visitors from entering the rooms of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection

Visitors and PPE
- Visitors who are symptomatic should be asked to go home
- Visitors of patients in droplet precautions should wear a surgical or isolation mask when within 6 feet of the patient
- If a patient in airborne precautions has a visitor, place a surgical or isolation mask on the patient while visitors are present. Maintain negative pressure in the room by keeping the door closed.

Screen patients for symptoms of respiratory illness
- Personnel will be stationed at the entrance to the ED, the main Sky Lakes Medical Center entrance, and the main entrance to the Sky Lakes Collaborative Health Center
  - Everyone entering will be asked to wear a surgical mask if they have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath
  - Symptomatic visitors will be asked to not enter
Cohorting HCWs
  o As much as possible, limit the number of HCWs who have direct contact with symptomatic patients

When to use N95 or PAPR versus surgical or isolation mask
  o N95 or PAPR should be worn when caring for patients in airborne precautions
    ■ Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection should be in airborne precautions
    ■ For patients with suspected or known COVID-19 infection, HCWs should wear eye protection with
      N95 mask or use a PAPR and don gown and gloves when within 6 feet of the patient.
  o Surgical or isolation mask should be worn when caring for patients in droplet precautions when within
    6 feet of the patient
    ■ Patients with suspected or known influenza should be in droplet precautions

N95 use
  o Prior to wearing a N95 mask, HCWs must be fit tested
    ■ This is done annually and can also be done just-in-time if the HCW has not been fit tested in the past
  o To optimize our supply of N95 masks, the N95 mask may be reused by one HCW for multiple patient
    encounters with different patients
    ■ Store used N95s in a designated area, such as a paper bag, to keep it clean
  o Discard the N95 mask:
    ■ at the end of your shift
    ■ if it becomes obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through
    ■ after it is worn for an aerosol-generating procedure such as intubation, bronchoscopy, or sputum
      induction
    ■ if it becomes contaminated with blood or other body fluids

PAPR use
  o PAPR may be used as an alternative to N95 masks.
  o HCWs should be trained on proper use of the PAPR prior to using it
  o The PAPR face shield should be cleaned with a “purple top” wipe after each use then allowed to dry prior
    to next use

References:
1. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators: Conventional Capacity Strategies, CDC, 2/29/2020
2. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators: Crisis/Alternative Strategies, CDC, 2/29/2020
4. Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings, CDC/NIOSH, 3/28/2018