Infection prevention and control guidelines to repurpose masks, shields.

Staff have expressed concerns about Mayo Clinic running out of personal protective equipment amid the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, all Mayo Clinic locations have enough supplies to sustain the organization's masking effort.

However, Mayo wants to be as prepared as possible, and the Hospital Incident Command System, Infection Prevention and Control and Supply Chain Management teams continue developing plans for reprocessing equipment and other options to manufacture masks.

Your stewardship of Mayo Clinic resources is vital. Conserving equipment and avoiding unnecessary personal protective equipment use are critical in supporting these efforts.

Below are Infection Prevention and Control guidelines to repurpose masks and shields in patient care and specimen collection/testing environments:

**PATIENT CARE ENVIRONMENTS**

A reusable full-length polycarbonate face shield can be reused over multiple shifts.

After taking off the face shield, clean and disinfect it with hospital-grade disinfectant. While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield, using a hospital-grade disinfectant. If the disinfectant clouds the shield, wipe away the residue with a wet towel after the wet contact time for the disinfectant has been maintained. Store in a clean and protected area.

**Powered air-purifying respirator guidelines vary for battery units, hoses, head covers and hoods.**

Powered air-purifying respirator battery units and hoses are used among health care staff and must be cleaned after each use. For powered air-purifying respirator head cover and hoods, note this guidance:

- Staff should have an assigned head cover and hood, if possible.
- A powered air-purifying respirator head cover and hood can be reused over multiple shifts, while integrity is maintained, by the same staff member, if possible.
- Store powered air-purifying respirator head covers and hoods in clean and protected areas, such as a container, paper bag or vented plastic bag that is labeled with the staff member's name.

For powered air-purifying respirators taken off in hallways outside patient rooms, note this guidance:

- Ensure an area is established outside of the room to assist with cleaning, such as a bedside table, along with disinfectant wipes, sanitizer, gloves and a waste container.
- Clean and disinfect powered air-purifying respirator battery units, hoses, and head covers and hoods, according to the powered air-purifying respirator reuse pictorial.

Controlled air-purifying respiration shields can be reused over multiple shifts, while integrity is maintained, by the same staff member.

Staff should have an assigned face shield. Take off the face shield outside a patient room. While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside of the face shield, followed by the outside, using a hospital-grade disinfectant. Store in a clean and protected area, such as a container labeled with the staff member's name.

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TESTING ENVIRONMENTS**

A reusable full-length polycarbonate face shield can be reused for collecting nasopharyngeal swabs from multiple patients in a row and reused over multiple shifts. After taking off the face shield, clean and disinfect it with hospital-grade disinfectant. While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield, using a hospital-grade disinfectant. If disinfectant clouds the shield, wipe away the residue with a wet towel after the wet contact time for the disinfectant has been maintained. Store in a clean and protected area.

A surgical mask can be reused for collecting nasopharyngeal swabs from multiple patients in a row. Discard when taking off personal protective equipment.

A mask with attached face shield can be reused for collecting nasopharyngeal swabs from multiple patients in a row. Discard when taking off personal protective equipment.

**MASK COLLECTION FOR REPROCESSING**

Review new guidelines regarding mask collection for reprocessing. Collection bins are to collect masks/face shields.
worn by healthcare providers only. This includes: tie masks, ear loop masks, N95 and masks with attached face shield.

QUESTIONS
Direct questions to Infection Prevention and Control.