



NC Healthcare Supply Conservation Considerations

Supply conservation and related preparedness activities should be considered now for implementation across the healthcare system as part of a coordinated response to COVID-19. The below supply conservation considerations focus around Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Usage but many of the considerations are multi-purpose strategies.

Scarce Resource Management

	Considerations	Notes
Preparedness Activities	Determine Normal Burn rate of PPE/Supplies* Look for alternate/substitution for PPE / Supplies ** Provide guidance / training for all employees ***	Should be doing these activities long before concern arises
Engineering Controls	Immediately place persons with respiratory illness in private room	
Administrative Controls	Telemedicine / Nurse Triage Protocols **** Exclude Healthcare Providers not directly involved in patient care Exclude Visitors Provide Facemasks for patients with symptoms	Use strategies for all patients requiring isolation, including those suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
	Cohort Patients Cohort Healthcare Providers Just-in-time fit testing Limiting Respirators During Training	Useful in the case of higher levels of surge

*Monitor burn rate of PPE/Supplies to determine if strategies are effective at decreasing burn rate and to inform trigger for adding new strategies to help with conservation of resources

**Consideration of different suppliers/manufacturers or different types (e.g. N99) & obtaining from other partners

***Increased and proactive communications help staff feel informed and prepared with the evolving situation

****Create protocols to help staff feel more comfortable fielding questions to decrease surge on healthcare system



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Personal Protective Equipment Resource Request Guidance:

Healthcare Coalition partners requesting support with PPE resources should be prepared to discuss the considerations and strategies that have been implemented by their agency to conserve PPE resources including but not limited to the following questions:

1. If neighboring agencies/facilities have been contacted to attempt to borrow/purchase additional PPE Supplies?
2. What administrative controls are being utilized to decrease the current burn rate of PPE?
3. When is the next expected delivery of PPE?
4. How many hours of each type of PPE does the agency currently have (e.g. 48 hours of gowns and 96 hours of N95 respirators)?
5. What surge management considerations have been implemented (postponing all elective and outpatient procedures etc.)?
6. How many patients are currently on isolation?

Healthcare Coalition partners should request support for PPE resources through the normal emergency management request and fulfillment process starting with their Local EM (see attached request flow chart). Please note, at this time this PPE resource request process will be *actively monitored during normal business hours*. Additionally, there are no guarantees for resource availability and fulfillment.