



## Memorandum

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TO: Premier Health Managers, Physicians, and Staff

FROM: Roberto Colon, MD, system vice president of quality and safety, Premier Health

DATE: March 20, 2020

RE: **Personal Protective Equipment Conservation**

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In response to the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, Premier Health is taking proactive measures to conserve medical masks and gowns.

Employees who use provided PPE are asked to follow new procedures that already allow some PPE to be reused to ensure we maintain an adequate supply within our hospitals without compromising safety.

Masks are to be used by the same employee, **per patient**, per shift, for patients in droplet isolation on the cohort respiratory isolation units. Closed units include Miami Valley Hospital SE9, Atrium Medical Center 4 Ortho/Spine (4OS), and Upper Valley Medical Center G-pod.

Employees who use medical masks are encouraged to reuse their mask for the duration of their shift. If a mask has holes, rips, tears, or contamination, it should be thrown away and a new mask should be used.

Premier Health is committed to keeping our employees, patients, and their families safe during this pandemic. Your willingness to follow these guidelines will help us in carrying out our mission.

**The following process changes do not apply to patients confirmed or suspected of having with COVID-19.**

- Gowns will no longer be used for patients with VRE and some resistance gram-negative organisms. Gowns will continue to be used for patients with C. difficile and Carbapenemase Producing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE)
- The Multi Drug Resistant Organism policy has been updated regarding the gowns for VRE and resistant gram-negative organisms.
- The policy was also updated last weekend to reflect the change that gowns are no longer needed for patients with MRSA.