Protecting Yourself, Your Patients, and Your Family

How to Optimize and Effectively Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Pharmacy Personnel During the COVID-19 Crisis

As an essential healthcare provider, taking appropriate steps to protect yourself, your staff, your patients, and your family is a top priority. We all do our part to provide care to patients, but it is particularly important during the COVID-19 national emergency. Staying current with updated recommendations and guidance will help keep everyone safe and minimize the spread of the virus.

Steps for Effective Use of Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] to Protect Pharmacy Personnel:

- Review the CDC’s Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients With Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings.

- Review the available types of PPE for minimizing the risk of COVID-19 virus transmission.
  - Considerations for Selecting Protective Clothing Used in Healthcare
  - Understanding the Difference Between Surgical Masks and N95 Respirators
  - Proper Respirator Fitting and Requirements

- Review and be familiar with strategies for optimizing the supply of PPE during the COVID-19 crisis.
  - Eye Protection
  - Isolation Gowns
  - Face Masks
  - N95 Respirators

- Read the FDA Letter to Healthcare Providers on Medical Glove Conservation Strategies during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Review and be knowledgeable about the steps for properly putting on and taking off PPE, including gloves, gowns, masks, respirators, goggles, and face shields.

- Determine how long the PPE will last and implement operational measures to conserve equipment with the PPE Burn Rate Calculator.

- Check safety and efficacy of your supply of gloves to ensure protection against the COVID-19 virus.

- Check your practice’s supply of gloves for adequate quantity to meet your needs during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Review and stay current with the most up-to-date information from CDC on COVID-19 and PPE.

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