



# W.I.N.K – Conservation Guidelines (Gowns)

**General conservation guidelines per CDC for Crisis Capacity for gowns-** defined as adaptive spaces, staff, and supplies are not consistent with usual standards of care, but provide sufficiency of care in the setting of a pandemic

- Limit number of staff entering isolations rooms to those providing patient care
- Use of a gown is required for invasive or aerosol generating procedures, and direct patient care activities that have potential to spread germs to the hands and clothing (e.g. dressing changes, providing hygiene, bathing/showering, transferring, changing linens, toileting, device care or use, wound care).
  - A gown does not need to be worn if interaction does not involve contact with the patient or the patient's environment (asking a question, delivering a cup of water or other item)
  - An apron may be worn in place of a gown for blood draws, finger sticks, and vital signs
- EVS personnel may wear a gown continuously between cleaning multiple rooms following extended use guidelines below
- To preserve gowns when appropriate and/or when no gowns are available consider use of disposable lab coats, washable patient gowns, washable lab coats, or disposable aprons

## Extended or Reuse Guidelines:

- **Extended use:** Wearing the same gown between consecutive patients in different rooms without changing gowns. Per CDC Guidelines, extending the use of isolation gowns (disposable or reusable) such that the same gown is worn by the same caregiver when interacting with more than one patient known to be infected with the same infectious disease when these patients are housed in the same location (i.e., COVID-19 patients residing in a cohorted unit). Extended use can be considered only if there are no additional co-infectious diagnoses transmitted by contact (such as *Clostridioides difficile*/ MRSA) among patients
  - Gown can be worn continuously (extended use) in between cares of positive COVID patients/ between patients in triage areas and testing centers:
    - Remove gown once visibly soiled/damp or contaminated with blood or body fluids
    - Gown must be removed if moving to a non-COVID patient room
    - Gowns should not be worn continuously outside of patient rooms, unless walking directly to the next room
    - Gowns should not be worn outside of room in common areas, clean areas, medication prep areas, nursing stations, offices, clean supply rooms etc.
- **Reuse:** Reusable gowns can be untied and retied and could be considered for re-use without laundering in between. Any gown that becomes visibly soiled during patient care should be disposed of or laundered (reusable gowns)
  - Store used gown for reuse in patient's room, close to the door and label gown with name and date
  - Reused gown application:
    - Perform hand hygiene, don clean gloves, don reusable gown, doff gloves, perform hand hygiene, and don clean pair of gloves
    - Hand hygiene must be performed between donning and doffing reused gowns
    - When gown visibly soiled/ damp, contaminated with blood or body fluids, or at end of shift, place reusable gown in linen hamper/designated bin