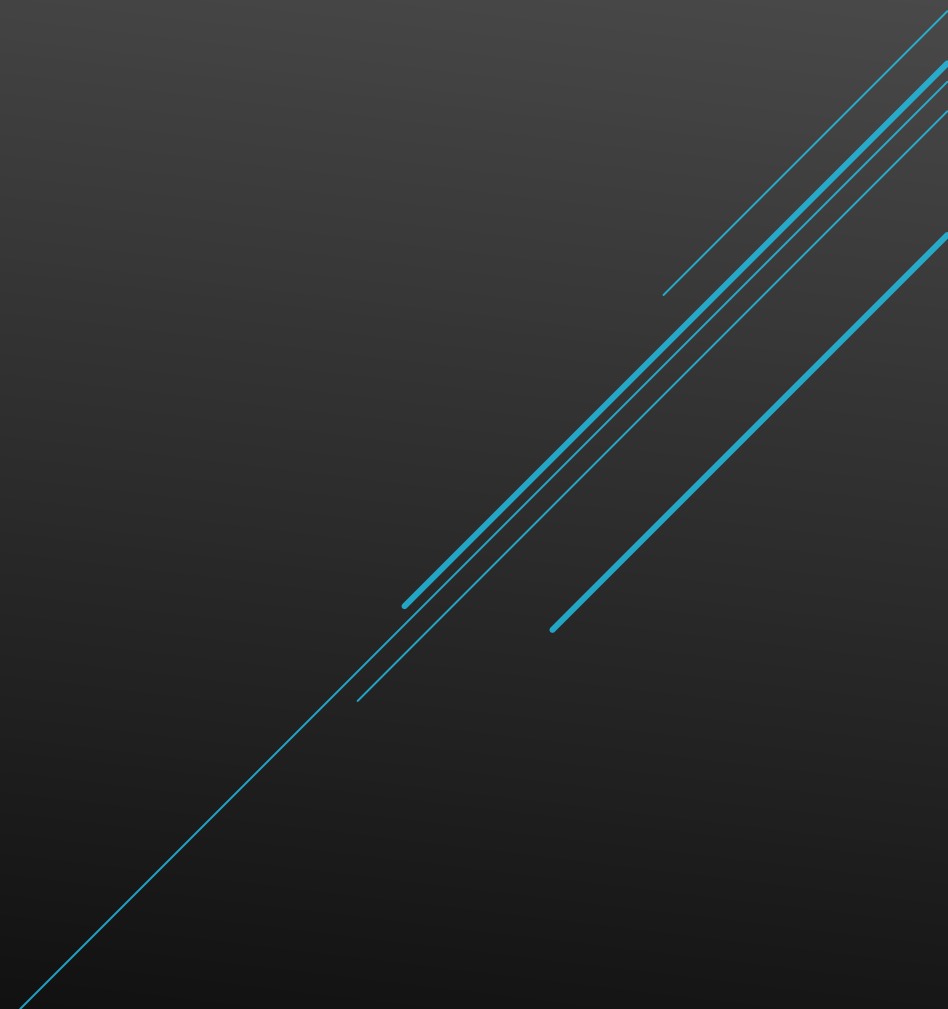


# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CONSERVATION

Breanne Beck, CIH

Senior Industrial Hygienist

Environmental Health and Safety





**In Colorado and around the world**



**Likely not enough to support a  
second surge and continued cases  
through winter**



**Everybody should be doing their part  
to conserve PPE**

Do you really need it?  
Are there alternatives?  
How can I conserve?

# SEVERE PPE SHORTAGES

- ▶ N95s
- ▶ Gowns
- ▶ Wipes
- ▶ Hand sanitizer

▶ Everything!



DIFFICULT TO  
PROCURE

INFLATED  
COST

WORRIED  
ABOUT

# WHAT SHOULD YOUR PPE LOOK LIKE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19?

The same as it did  
pre COVID-19

- \* Unless you are working with COVID+ samples, SARS-COV-2, or are conducting aerosol-generating procedures

Protects against: particles, dust,  
viruses

Does not protect against:  
chemicals, oily particles

Should not be worn outside of the  
lab

Should be conserved for first  
responders/HCP

## N95 RESPIRATORS

Several thin, white, parallel diagonal lines are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the bottom edge towards the right edge.

## Extended Use

- ▶ Organize your task flow so that you minimize donning and doffing
- ▶ Wear for your entire shift



## CONSERVING N95

## Re-use

- ▶ Do not share masks
- ▶ Store in a paper bag
- ▶ Practice good hand hygiene
- ▶ Strictly follow donning and doffing techniques
- ▶ Discard N95s following use during aerosol generating procedures
- ▶ Discard if contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions or other bodily fluids
- ▶ Discard if obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through
- ▶ Consider use of a face shield over the N95 to reduce surface contamination



- ▶ Gowns: do you really need them?
  - ▶ Can you wear lab coats?
  - ▶ EHS has a laundering service:  
[ehs.compliance@ucdenver.edu](mailto:ehs.compliance@ucdenver.edu)

- ▶ Gloves
  - ▶ Do not wear outside of the laboratory
  - ▶ Try to conserve
    - ▶ Organize your task flow so that you minimize glove changes



# GOWNS AND GLOVES



Use an alcohol  
spray instead

Contact EHS  
([lacey.Klindt@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:lacey.Klindt@cuanschutz.edu)) for a 70%  
ethanol spray



Do you have  
access to a hand  
washing sink?

Preferred method

# WIPES AND HAND SANITIZERS





- ▶ CDC:
  - ▶ Handwashing reduces the amounts of ALL types of germs and chemicals on hands
  - ▶ Alcohol-based hand sanitizers reduces the number of microbes but not ALL
  - ▶ People tend to not use a large enough volume or wipe it off before it has dried
- ▶ If there is a sink...wash your hands! Often.

# HANDWASHING VS. SANITIZER



# WASH YOUR HANDS...

All the time.