

Facilities should have a routine process to establish, monitor, and maintain supplies crucial to the infection control program. A 30-day inventory of supplies is generally considered best. Be sure to include PPE items such as gowns, gloves, eye protection, medical masks, and N95 respirators. Additionally, maintain an adequate inventory of alcohol-based hand sanitizer and germicides. Plan ahead. Being prepared by having items essential to your infection control program available at the beginning of an outbreak will help to navigate it more safely. Once PPE use increases (such as with more residents needing isolation), work to increase inventory so that there is an ongoing available supply.

Refer to the [Transmission-based Precautions](#) document for specific information regarding N95 respirators, masks, gowns, eye protection, or gloves for detail on donning/doffing and PPE use.

Inventory Management

Have enough supply on hand to manage several residents with symptoms of COVID-19 for several days. It is easy to underestimate the amount of PPE that is being used, particularly single use [N95 respirators](#), so it is important to closely monitor supplies, particularly early in an outbreak.



Evaluate Your Current PPE Inventory

- Increase supply of N95 respirators, gloves, eye protection, and gowns to ensure ongoing supply.
- Establish a system to inventory and monitor PPE numbers and daily use.
 - The [CDC Burn Rate Calculator](#) is helpful to plan for and optimize supply.
 - When calculating your inventory needs, consider that gowns, gloves, and N95 respirators must be changed after each resident contact.
 - An increase in the number of residents on isolation will increase the supply that the facility will need to have on hand.

Establish a Process to Monitor Inventory Regularly

- Increase inventory monitoring when active COVID-19 cases are in the building.

Low Inventory

- If inventory drops below 14 days of supply and you are unable to obtain items from your company or vendors, contact your local health department for support and ongoing direction to ensure that equipment is provided for resident care. This resource can take several days, so it is important to request in advance of shortages.
- If there will be delays in shipping, consider ordering a larger amount and placing orders before running low on supply.

Supply Storage

- Select a dedicated location to store supplies. This area should be clean, dry, and protected from contamination.
- Federal OSHA requires that PPE supplies, when needed for care, must be readily accessible at the point where it will be used (such as outside a resident doorway).
- Consider providing daily supply of PPE in enclosed cabinets or drawers outside of each resident's room when they are placed on isolation precautions.
- Store clean items such as PPE and patient care items separate from cleaning equipment and supplies.

Resources

CDC Optimizing PPE Supplies (Respirators, masks, eye protection, gowns, gloves)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

CDC Burn Rate Calculator

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