



**California Department of Public Health  
Center for Health Care Quality  
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities IP Call  
August 27, 2020, 12:00 pm**

**I: Questions & Answers:**

**Q:** Can we use the same face shield and respirator with residents if we are practicing extended use?

**A:** Extended use can be applied to this situation. There is a caveat though regarding extended use for positive and negative individuals. Facilities should have dedicated COVID units for positive residents for specific staff. In theory, you could practice extended use with different residents, however facilities should be dedicating specific staff for positive residents.

**Q:** Can rehab sessions be done at in the rehab rooms in skilled nursing facilities? If the room is rotated for green/yellow/red residents and followed by cleaning in between sessions, would this be allowed?

**A:** This process should be okay, if strict PPE use is followed and other necessary source control methods. Those providing therapy should also be wearing proper PPE as well. For COVID positive residents in their isolation periods, facilities should consider ways of providing rehab in the resident rooms, or other creative solutions such as dedicated room or outdoors.

**Q:** Are there any best practices for PPE for giving showers?

**A:** We will follow up with occupational health experts to follow up on this specific question. This may be a scenario where a face shield would be required as compared to just goggles, due to the high chance of splatter or spray from residents.

**Q:** Question related to cohorting. We have green, yellow, and red zones but only one break one in the facility. Is it acceptable to allow all staff to use it if we only allow one staff member at a time and clean after each use?

**A:** This should be acceptable, and we acknowledge the challenge facilities have with these requirements. We encourage all creative strategies that still abide by the guidelines in place. We would just add that regular cleaning occur, no inter-mingling of staff from different zones, and no PPE is worn in these areas.

**Q:** We currently do not have space for a yellow zone in our facility. Is it okay that we isolate residents in their rooms, if we have the space?

**A:** This would be considered okay by the guidelines in place. The highest priority is given to dedicated spaces for positive residents – or red zones. The next priority is for the observation of

new residents – yellow observation. This is different than normal yellow zones, which is for exposed residents.

**Q:** Question related to respirator extended use. Staff have 16-hour shifts. Do they need two sets of PPE based on guidelines for max period of use?

**A:** Based on guidelines, max period of use is 8-12 hours. This would mean additional respirators would be necessary. You will need to confirm with Cal OSHA for clarity.

**Q:** Question related to face shield extended use and disinfecting.

**A:** Face shields used for extended periods do not need to be disinfected in between residents, as long as staff are not touching or adjusting the faceshield without performing hand hygiene before/afterwards, and have not been splashed or sprayed.

**Q:** If our facility has enough PPE on hand, can we prohibit staff from bringing in their own PPE?

**A:** This question should be directed to Cal OSHA specifically for clarification.

**Q:** Question related to saliva testing. Is this something that can be used in the near future?

**A:** We will have to follow up with our laboratory colleagues and get back to you.

**Q:** Will there be an AFL sent out for new testing requirements based on the guidelines released by CMS?

**A:** Yes, this is in process and will be released as soon as it's approved.

**Q:** Question related to long-term testing requirements. Is this coming in through an AFL?

**A:** Yes, these changes will be reflected in an AFL that is currently being revised.