Traveling PPE Clarifications

The ideal situation is for PPE to be stored in your unit/office/department. Not all job roles or situations have a central location to store PPE in between shifts or rotations. The following guidance is to ensure safety, if your PPE must travel with you.

### PPE Traveling & Storage Reminders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PPE can travel?</strong></td>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
<td>When possible, reduce the amount of times your PPE has to travel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **PPE can move to different units or buildings?**                       | **YES**| - When moving to a completely different area, best practice is to use a storage container while transporting. If you are without a traveling container, one must re-clean the item before the next patient contact.  
- Remember, always clean eye protection before placing in a storage container (i.e. - paper bag or plastic container) to travel into public areas (hallways in between units, tram, going from DCH or main hospital). |
| **PPE can be safely stored?**                                           | **YES**| - Only one item of PPE should be stored per container.  
- Store PPE in a paper bag or plastic container.  
- Clean re-usable items (face shield, safety glasses) BEFORE placing in container.  
- Specifics for safe N-95 storage are detailed in PPE Conservation on page 4 & 5. |
| **When do you assess the container and PPE?**                          |        | **Prior to use.**  
- Assess container and PPE *prior to use.*  
  - Discard or disinfect PPE in any container found to be compromised or soiled.  
  - Discard if a paper container when compromised, such as getting moist or torn.  
  - Disinfect if a plastic container if found to be compromised.  
    - Clean a plastic container by removing the lid, performing hand hygiene, remove mask or item of PPE and don, perform hand hygiene again, don gloves, disinfect plastic container and the location of the plastic container and vent lid.  
    - How to achieve a 'vented lid' or airflow in plastic containers.  
      - Most individuals keep the lid askew to vent the container if it can be stored in a flat location. When transport is needed, one would close the lid and re-open the lid when at destination needing the PPE. This reduces the time a non-breathable container is closed. When a container is closed, it does not allow moisture to escape and will reduce the conservation of the item.  
      - Done less often, but still acceptable is drilling holes in the lid for ventilation.  
    - Because of the durability of hard-sided plastic containers (Tupperware™) safeguarding PPE from being crushed, this is a preferred travel storage container if several trips are likely. |

**Please NOTE:**

*Cleaning Between Reuse:*  
- When and how to disinfect eye protection: face shields or safety glasses/goggles or other PPE is found in: PPE Conservation.  
- Reuse and extended use of PPE is recommended to those who have the knowledge and confidence in their ability to safely perform the proper reuse and extended use practices defined in PPE Conservation.