

Powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) Guidelines

Level of protection:

When used with HEPA or other biological agent filters, PAPRs provide the wearer with protection from airborne agents, including SARS-CoV-2. PAPRs can be used in any situation where providers would require N95 and face shield protection, including aerosol generating procedures with patients who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

PAPRs can be decontaminated between patients with the intermediate or “half” doff as described below. They should be handled with gloves even if they have been decontaminated. Wearers should avoid touching them during and between cases, and decontaminate or change gloves after touching the hoods or hoses. They should not be worn outside of patient care areas, or into areas with

All references to a “helper” refer to a person wearing gown, gloves and mask at minimum.

Donning with a PAPR:

Put on gloves and perform PAPR HEPA filter check (see below). Put on surgical hair cap or bouffant hair cover and surgical face mask. Ensure you have either non-porous wipeable shoes or shoe covers on. Put on PAPR belt and battery and attach the hood. Turn on PAPR and put on, hood. Tie gown over PAPR. Clean gloves and put on outer pair of gloves.

Intermediate Doffing between patients (AKA “half doff”):

In order, receives first Sani-wipe from helper, wipes down outside pair of gloves and removes them and discards first wipe. Receives second wipe and wipes face shield and hood, and wipes inner gloves and discards wipe. Remove disposable gown. Receives third wipe from Helper (in Level 2 PPE: gown, gloves, face shield and surgical mask) and decontaminates inner gloves. Discards third wipe. Dons new gown and 2nd pair of gloves.

Full doffing at end of shift or to leave OR area:

Receives first wipe handed from helper and decontaminates outer gloves, removes outer gloves and discards first wipe. Receives second wipe from helper and wipes, in order, face shield and as much of the PAPR hood as possible. Having a helper wipe down the back of the gown is best. Remove gown and throw away into biohazard bin. PAPR wearer receives third wipe and wipes down inner gloves. Using cleaned gloved hands removes PAPR hood and disconnect from tubing. Wipes down front of PAPR waist band and removes with gloved hands and places entire PAPR apparatus in the dirty bin or a designated “dirty area” to be cleaned by still-gowned helper. Take off hair cover and shoe cover/wipe shoes, remove inner gloves and clean hands. Helper wipes down

PAPR hood outside and inside, tubing motor and belt. When it is cleaned, PAPR put back in bin, ready for next user. PAPRs and equipment should be handled with gloves.

PAPR filter check:

- Battery connected and airflow tested with red ball tube. This indicates health of HEPA filters.
- Battery should be the first thing to be replaced should ball tube fail.
- HEPA filters should last for several months but can be replaced with back-up, packaged, new filters. Tabs must be removed from new filters for adequate airflow.