



April 25, 2022

### **Updated PPC Guidelines**

In response to the increasing COVID-19 case numbers in our counties and in our local healthcare facilities, we need to return higher level PPE policies that we had in place in January and February.

**Beginning Monday April 25, all Northwest Kidney Centers staff involved in patient care are required to wear respirators (N95, KN95 or KF94) in clinical spaces (treatment floor, lobby and anywhere you may interact with patients and visitors).**

We understand that this is disappointing news, but we hope this requirement will only be necessary for the next few weeks as we work through the current surge.

#### **How to implement this:**

- Wear a respirator (N95 or a KN95/KF94 with a medical grade mask over it) when you are in clinical areas or anywhere you may encounter a patient or visitor.
- Use a fit-tested N95 respirator if you are caring for or working with a patient under investigation or a COVID positive patient.
- N95s can be worn continuously throughout your shift. Replace your N95 with a new N95 after one (1) shift or if it becomes wet or soiled.
- Staff working in non-clinical areas are strongly encouraged to wear a respirator (N95, KN95 or KF94). If you choose not to wear a respirator, two medical grade masks will provide you more protection.

The current transmission level has now reached 200 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents in King County and is rising in all counties we serve. We anticipate this surge will continue especially as families return from spring break and holiday festivities. However, we expect this will be a temporary requirement and we will track the surge closely to determine when we can return to previous PPE standards.

Supply chain continues to do a wonderful job sourcing materials for our clinics and have respirators on hand.

We cannot thank everyone enough for all you are doing to continue to keep our patients and each other safe. Everyone has done a remarkable job remaining patient and flexible as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Thank you,

Katrina Collins MN, RN  
Infection Prevention/Employee Health Program Manager  
Northwest Kidney Centers