

Maxim's employees should follow these directions for use of protection for clothing when caring for suspected or confirmed COVID19 patients or if a family member in the home is confirmed or suspected. The CDC recommends using PPE such as disposable isolation gowns. The CDC also recognizes that there are going to be instances when disposable isolation gowns are not available. Maxim, like most other healthcare providers is experiencing difficulty in securing the gowns due to a supply shortage of gowns. The following is the CDC recommendation:

Shift gown use towards cloth isolation gowns

Reusable (i.e., washable) gowns are typically made of polyester or polyester-cotton fabrics. Gowns made of these fabrics can be safely laundered according to [routine procedures](#) and reused. Care should be taken to ensure that HCP do not touch outer surfaces of the gown during care.

- Laundry operations and personnel may need to be augmented to facilitate additional washing loads and cycles
- Systems are established to routinely inspect, maintain (e.g., mend a small hole in a gown, replace missing fastening ties), and replace reusable gowns when needed (e.g., when they are thin or ripped)

Consider the use of coveralls.

When No Gowns Are Available:

Consider using gown alternatives that have not been evaluated as effective.

In situation of severely limited or no available isolation gowns, the following pieces of clothing can be considered as a last resort for care of COVID-19 patients as single use. However, none of these options can be considered PPE, since their capability to protect HCP is unknown. Preferable features include long sleeves and closures (snaps, buttons) that can be fastened and secured.

- Disposable laboratory coats
- Reusable (washable) patient gowns
- Reusable (washable) laboratory coats
- Disposable aprons
- Combinations of clothing: Combinations of pieces of clothing can be considered for activities that may involve body fluids and when there are no gowns available:
 - Long sleeve aprons in combination with long sleeve patient gowns or laboratory coats
 - Open back gowns with long sleeve patient gowns or laboratory coats
 - Sleeve covers in combination with aprons and long sleeve patient gowns or laboratory coats

Reusable patient gowns and lab coats can be safely laundered according to [routine procedures](#).
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

When using any of the above types of cloth covering, Maxim recommends the following:

- Remove the lab coat or gown at the end of the shift.
- Lab coats/Gowns should be removed in a fashion that turns them inside out. Avoid touching the outside of the lab coat/gown as much as possible.
- Place the lab coat/gown in a plastic bag and place in the trunk of the car.
- Lab coat/gown should be washed between uses.
- Staff should also have a second lab coat/gown in the instance that the first lab coat/gown becomes soiled while caring for the patient.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Maxim clinical representative or Employee Relations (employeerelations@maxhealth.com).