

## PPE SHORTAGES

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. PRIORITIZE

2. LIMIT

3. DISCOVER

### Is This an Emergency? Can This Wait?

Two important questions for veterinary practitioners.

The more opportunity given to use PPE the less you will have on reserve, furthermore the less you can contribute to the current nationwide shortage across both human and animal medicine. The canceling and rescheduling of elective and non-emergent procedures should be highly considered during this time of critical PPE shortage.

- ▶ Reducing the number of staff required to wear PPE will benefit current shortages. Veterinarians should do the best they can to limit the amount of staff assisting in operating rooms and other procedures that require the use of PPE.
- ▶ Expired PPE such as gowns, masks, and gloves should be considered during this time, but inspected first before using. Most importantly, move away from disposable PPE when possible. Cloth surgical gowns can be safely reused after proper laundering, drastically lowering the amount of disposable, one-time use gowns that are immediately thrown away. Examination gloves are in much better supply than surgical gloves, in worst case scenarios sterile examination gloves should be used. Gloves are to remain one time use and not worn for extended periods.
- ▶ Medical grade disposable masks are the best at protecting against COVID-19 as well as other zoonotic or harmful exposures. These masks are currently the most hard to find with current shortages and cloth masks may be substituted when appropriate.

**JOANN Fabrics DIY face mask tutorial:**

<https://www.joann.com/make-to-give-response/>

#### Resources:

- <https://www.vin.com/covid/default.aspx?pid=25078&catId=142955&id=9570990&ind=81&objTypeID=10>
- <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/guidelines-ppe-covid-19-pandemic-demand-exceeds>