

Guidance for Maintaining Skin Health When Utilizing Protective Masks for Prolonged Time Intervals

If a Health Care Worker (HCW) develops blanchable erythema (redness) or an abrasion on the face (e.g. nose, cheeks, forehead) when utilizing facial protective equipment (FPE), or if preventative measures are needed for prolonged wear time, please consider implementation of the following approach, after washing hands and donning gloves:

- ◆ Apply ALCOHOL-FREE barrier film to the face (e.g. nose, cheeks, forehead, behind the ears). AVOID application of the alcohol-free barrier film to the eyes/eyelids.
- ◆ Prior to application of the alcohol-free barrier film, ensure that the area of the face to be protected (e.g. cheeks, nose, forehead, ears) is free of any make-up, oils, cream, lotions, etc.
- ◆ Using one of the alcohol-free barrier film packages, gently apply the barrier film to the areas where the metal plate/stay or elasticized portion of the FPE rests on soft tissue/bony areas.
- ◆ Allow the alcohol-free barrier film to dry for 90 seconds.
- ◆ Apply the FPE as you have been instructed/trained.
- ◆ Application of the alcohol-free skin barrier film should be applied only once per day.
- ◆ DO NOT place a dressing of any type (e.g. foam, hydrocolloid) to the face under the N-95 mask/other individual-specific mask as this may interfere with the mask's fit and seal.



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Please refer to the WOCN Society [Guidance for Maintaining Skin Health When Utilizing Protective Masks for Prolonged Time Intervals](#) for more details.