

# REUSE OR EXTENDED USE OF GOWNS

COVID-19

## REUSE:

removal and storage of gown between patients

VS

## EXTENDED USE:

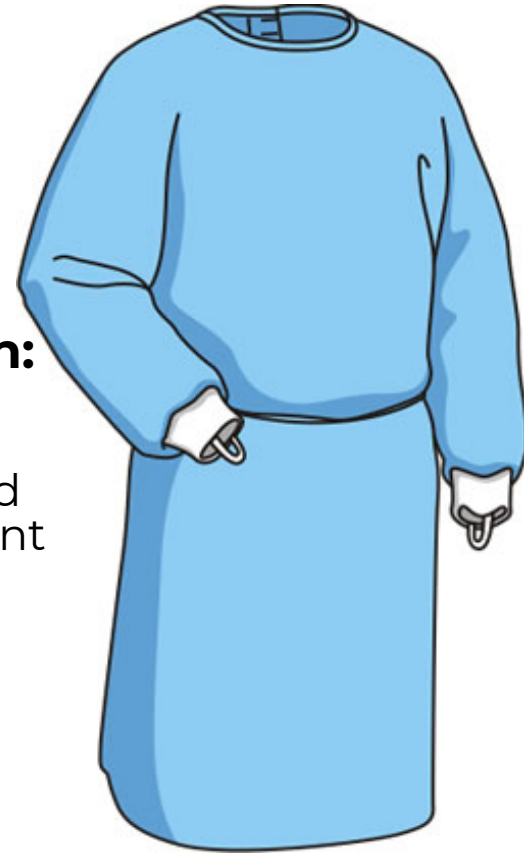
use of the same gown for repeated close contact with multiple patients without removal between patients (acceptable when patients have the same respiratory pathogen)

## Considerations for **extended use of gowns** to reduce contact transmission:

- If soiled or damaged, the gown should be discarded (according to usual practices)
- This is acceptable when patients being treated are housed in the same location (i.e. patients residing in an isolation cohort)

## Considerations for **limited reuse of gowns** to reduce contact transmission:

- Remove gown after each encounter with a patient
- If soiled, damaged, gown should be discarded
- If gown needs to be removed, leave the patient care area
- **Other types of gowns may be considered:**
  - disposable or reusable lab coats
  - reusable patient gowns
  - disposable aprons



## Storage & Donning of Used Gowns:

- Gowns should be stored folded with the outer surface held inward against itself to reduce contact with other surfaces during storage OR hung in a designated area, not in contact with other gowns
- Folded gown should be stored in a clean **sealable paper bag or other breathable container**
- Each gown should have **ONLY ONE WEARER**
- **Clean hands with soap and water OR alcohol-based sanitizer before and after touching/adjusting the gown for wear**
- **Do not touch the outside of the gown** -- if contact occurs, wash hands as described above
- Wear a pair of non-sterile gloves when re-donning the gown, discard gloves when finished



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