

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance for Valley Water Staff for Protection against COVID-19

If work is deemed critical by management, and 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained when working frequently near others, i.e., more than transient interactions, then the use of Personal Protective Equipment is recommended.

- Goggles/face shields/safety glasses with side-shields
- N95 mask or ½ face or full-face respirator with N95 or P100 Filters are recommended when working frequently within 6 feet. If your contact with persons is less frequent and transient and an employee chooses to wear a mask, then masks other than N95s, such as ear loop masks, are acceptable.
- Rubber gloves – Nitrile, latex, etc.

### Maintaining PPE

N95 and Ear Loop masks are disposable. We encourage all employees to keep their masks clean, to the greatest extent possible, so they can be reused for more than a single application, due to supply shortages. Disposable masks should not be used longer than a shift. In between applications, if reusing a mask, keep the mask in a clean dry storage area.

Disposable rubber gloves (i.e. thin nitrile gloves) are designed for single use only and are to be thrown away after use. Other gloves, such as thicker nitrile, or butyl rubber gloves, can be reused if relatively clean and undamaged but they must be washed, or sanitized prior to reuse.



### Other Protocols

In addition to wearing PPE, washing hands thoroughly with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer, and not touching your face with your hands, are all recommended.

While properly wearing your mask, try not to touch the facepiece with dirty hands to prevent contamination. Please use the links below for demonstrations on how to properly don (put on) and doff (take off) masks and gloves:

#### N95 donning and doffing:

[CDC & NIOSH N95 Donning and Doffing.pdf](#)

[Video Donning and Doffing N95](#)

#### Donning and Doffing Ear Loop/Tie Masks:

[Video Ear Loop/Tie Masks](#)

#### Disposable Glove donning and doffing:

[Rubber Glove Removal](#)