



Lifespan

Delivering health with care.®

March 27, 2020

Message on Scrubs Distribution at Lifespan Facilities

During this pandemic, we recognize the value of peace of mind and would love to be able to provide scrubs to everyone. Unfortunately, our current supply and laundry capabilities make this impossible. Adding the need to wash reusable gowns, this resource has become even more strained.

We will continue to work diligently to maintain scrub supplies at the levels and locations of our pre-COVID-19 state. In order to accomplish this, we are asking everyone to bring in any hospital-provided scrubs that they may have at home and return them to the circulation. Consider the next few weeks a “scrub amnesty”, no judgement, no questions asked.

We are also looking into the possibility of moving some scrub supplies from surgical services to other front-line areas when possible. The needs of our OR staff remain very fluid, so at this point we are not able to guarantee this supply will be sufficient to use elsewhere.

The simplest thing we can all do is bring a change of clothes to wear home and launder our work clothes at home.

Just like all other PPE that is in scarce supply, we must all work together to conserve scrubs for those who work in situations where excessive body fluids are anticipated or in areas where the risk from undifferentiated persons under investigation is frequent.

- **FAQ: How do I launder my clothes when I have taken care of a patient who has COVID19?**

The CDC does not recommend any special laundering for health care workers who have cared for patients with COVID. They do provide guidance for clothing, towels, and linens and other items that are worn by ill persons. They recommend laundering items as appropriate in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions and using the warmest appropriate setting for the items and to dry items completely. It is noted that dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people’s items. Gloves can be worn. However, if gloves are not used hands should be washed after handling dirty laundry.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>

