

## **Sterile Compounding Garb and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Shortage, COVID-19**

The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy intends to exercise risk-based enforcement discretion related to the implementation of United States Pharmacopeia (USP) garb and PPE requirements for sterile compounding, necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic-related shortages, when licensees follow best practices.

Under such circumstances, licensees are to:

1. Adhere to current best practice recommendations. Primary considerations are the health and safety of patients and safety of compounded sterile preparations.
2. Create a plan that documents the deviation from standard practice and workflow.
3. Engage with the licensee's infection prevention team (if any) to discuss adoption of modified workflows and standards in the face of COVID-19. Implement recommended controls including additional recommended environmental monitoring based on conservation strategies.

Licensees may utilize the best practice recommendations from USP and Critical Point. Links, as of March 23, 2020, are below.

USP: <https://www.usp.org/sites/default/files/usp/document/about/public-policy/usp-covid19-garb-and-ppe.pdf>

Critical Point: [Critical Point Strategies March 19, 2020](#)

### **General PPE information resources (not limited to sterile compounding operations):**

- CDC's Interim Guidance on preventing COVID-19 from spreading, which includes Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/>
- Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe.html>
- FDA's Surgical Mask and Gown Conservation Strategies - Letter to Healthcare Providers at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/surgical-mask-and-gown-conservation-strategies-letter-healthcare-providers>
- Critical Point (requires *free* subscription) - <https://peernetwork.criticalpoint.info/>