

UPDATE ON NURSES AND PPE:

Survey reveals alarming conditions

An American Nurses Association survey of 20,000 nurses—conducted July 24-August 14—makes it clear: **personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages persist during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Six months into the pandemic, the PPE shortage persists. Due to the continued shortage, nurses are forced to reuse single-use PPE. The lack of protective equipment is taking an emotional toll on the nation's nurses.

SHORTAGES: 1 in 3 nurses say they are “out” or “short” of N95 masks.

RE-USE: 68% of nurses say the practice of reusing single-use PPE, like N95 masks, is required by their facility's policy, a 6% increase since May. Most are reusing masks for at least five days.

SAFETY CONCERNS: 62% of nurses reusing N95 masks say they feel unsafe doing so.

CATEGORY	MAY	AUGUST
Nurses required to reuse N95 masks	62%	68% (+6%)
Nurses reusing masks for 5+ days	43%	58% (+15%)
Nurses feel unsafe with reusing masks	59%	62% (+3%)
Nurses feel unsafe using decontaminated masks	53%	55% (+2%)

The nation must take action to address the shortage as an urgent priority.

ANA CALLS FOR:

- The full use of the Defense Production Act to increase the domestic production of PPE
- Passage of the Medical Supply Chain Emergency Act of 2020
- Expanded investment in testing and public health infrastructure