

Protective gear

Highly contagious coronavirus cases have necessitated medical professionals to use personal protective equipment to prevent contracting the virus while treating COVID-19 patients.

Here is a look at some of the equipment used by Lompoc Valley Medical Center personnel, including Ninya Ruaro, a registered nurse in the Critical Care Unit.



Controlled Air-Purifying Respirator (CAPR)

The \$1,000 CAPR has an air blower built into the helmet, with a battery pack on the belt. The helmet can be sanitized and has disposable head liners that allow units to be shared. A disposable face shield attaches to the helmet and includes a neck cuff, which closes off the underside to create a kind of personal clean space.



N95 masks and face shields

During the peak, LVMC used 200 N95 masks each day, instead of the usual 200 per month. Disposable face shields are used for intubation of critical patients.



Isolation gowns, caps and booties

During the peak, LVMC used 500 disposable isolation gowns and surgical masks per day, normally using less than 100 per day.

Some washable gowns are available, allowing staff to wear the same gown all day.

At the highest use time, LVMC staff used 7,500 to 10,000 pairs of gloves per day – typical use was 20% of that amount.



SOURCE: Nora Wallace,
Lompoc Valley Medical
Center

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