

## **Re-Use of Decontaminated N95**

Reusing disposable filtering facepiece respirators such as N95's has been suggested as a crisis capacity strategy to conserve available supplies for healthcare environments during a pandemic.

- Disposable N95 respirators may be re-used following decontamination and worn for extended use as long as a seal check (see instructions below) can be achieved and they are not damaged or moist from sweat, make-up or insensible fluid loss through breathing.
- The N95 will be issued to staff with a handled brown paper bag. Label the N95 respirator with the user's name and date before using to prevent reuse by another individual.
- All supplies of respiratory protection (N95 respirators and face masks) will be stored in secured, designated areas.

When using a decontaminated N95 do the following:

- Perform hand hygiene
- Apply clean, non-sterile gloves
- Visually inspect the mask for integrity of
  - Straps
  - Nose bridge
  - Nose foam material
- Discard if integrity is compromised that could affect the quality of fit/seal
- Don N95, avoid touching the inside
- Perform user seal check:
  - No air should be felt around the perimeter while blowing out
  - Mask should pucker in slightly when taking small breath in
  - Should be able to breathe with mask on
- If any of above not able to be performed, do not re-use

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-24/enforcement-guidance-decontamination-filtering-facepiece-respirators-healthcare>

<https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19/COVID-Extended-Use-Reuse-of-PPE-and-N95.pdf?date=04212020>

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*This policy and procedure is not intended to replace the informed judgment of individual physicians, nurses or other clinicians nor is it intended as a statement of prevailing community standards or minimum standards of practice. It is a suggested method and technique for achieving optimal health care, not a minimum standard below which residents necessarily would be placed at risk.*