

Interim Respirator Re-Use Protocol

Nov. 10, 2009

Any reuse is restricted to a single person (mask cannot be shared between employees)

A disposable N95 respirator can be reused with the following precautions

- Protective covering such as a clear plastic face shield may be worn over the respirator to protect it from surface contamination
- The inside of the mask should not be handled with contaminated gloves or hands
- Masks should be carefully stored in a paper bag between uses
- Masks can be used for multiple patients but should not be used for more than 1 shift



Application:

- Perform hand hygiene, don N95 respirator and fit check.
- Ideally, apply a clear plastic face shield over the N95. Put goggles on AFTER applying mask (if no face shield used)



Removal:

- Remove gloves / gown (if applicable) and perform hand hygiene.
- Remove face shield using straps, avoiding contact with the front of the mask/shield. Face shield re-use - disinfect exterior surfaces with disinfectant wipes
- Remove N95 respirator by straps without touching inside of mask, place in a clean paper bag, and again perform hand hygiene
- Paper bags should be labeled with the employees name and date

Discard N95 when:

- **Damaged**
- **Defective** (failing fit-test, broken straps, etc)
- **Damp** (from provider respirations)
- **'Dirty'** – soiled or contaminated (directly coughed on or secretions from patient). Masks should be assumed to be 'dirty' after airway procedures such as intubation, open suctioning, CPR or bronchoscopy.
- **End of Shift**

PAPR Use:

Personnel using hooded PAPRs as an alternative to N95 masks should disinfect unit with wipes after use and allow to dry. Airflow should be checked for adequacy every few days using manufacturer-supplied meter (ball in cylinder usually) or described process. Canisters need only be replaced when airflow does not meet minimum requirements.

