

Mask Decontamination Process

To conserve personal protective equipment and protect the health of all, individual's N95 respirator(s) will be collected after use and decontaminated by a UV-based terminal cleaning process. Decontaminated masks will be returned to the individual. Respirator(s) returned to you will be yours alone. N95 respirators, new or decontaminated, should not be shared between individuals.

At the present time this process is applicable to N95 respirators only. As conditions of the SARS-CoV2-(COVID-19) pandemic evolve, the process outlined here will be updated as necessary.


Initial steps for the healthcare professional (HCP):

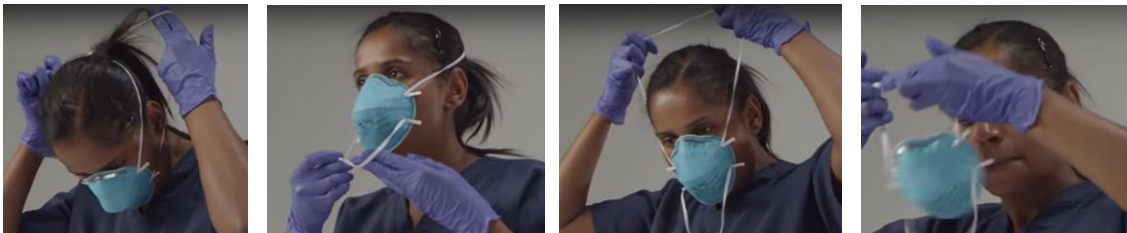
1. Retrieve N95 respirator from stock.
2. In permanent marker, write first initial, last name, and department/unit* on top left corner when looking at mask.
(* This is the location where you will be working- not necessarily the unit/department where you are employed.)
3. In permanent marker, write date of first use and letter indicating which respirator it is that you have received (A for the 1st, B for the 2nd...) on top right corner when looking at mask.



4. For the initial brown bag, acquire a printed sticker with your name and department on it from your director/supervisor. Subsequent brown bags will come, pre-stickered, in the white bag with your decontaminated respirators.

Use of Respirator:

5. Don N95 as instructed, check for air leaks. Use for intended patient care.
6. To doff N95 (Double click image to right for N95 Removal Video) 
 - a. Perform hand hygiene.
 - b. Don clean gloves.
 - c. Do not touch front of respirator.
 - d. Prevent straps from touching front of respirator.
 - e. Use both hands to grasp bottom strap, pull to the sides, guide strap up over head.
 - f. Use both hands to grasp top strap. Keeping tension on top strap, pull to the sides, guide strap up and over head and away from face.
 - g. Inspect for soiling, saturation, and structural integrity. If mask passes inspection, continue to step 7. If mask is soiled, saturated, or integrity is compromised, discard into garbage.



7. Carefully place N95 in brown bag (see Step 3) for UV cleaning.
 - a. Brown bag should stay wide open and remain that way.
 - b. Do not crush, fold, or otherwise alter the shape of the respirator or bag.
 - c. Brown bags will be collected in totes or carts. Do not stack bags. Handle with gloves.
8. Perform hand hygiene.

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For use of N95 during shift:

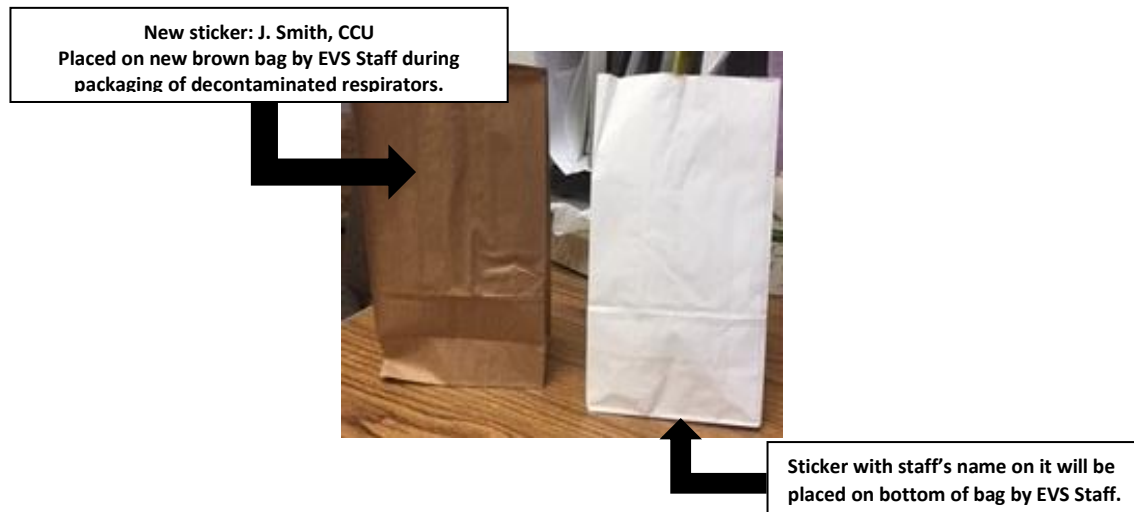
1. Wear N95 as much as possible (this is known as **Extended Use** – the practice of wearing the same N95 respirator for repeated encounters with several patients, without removing the respirator between encounters.)
2. If respirator needs to be removed for any reason, follow step 6-7.
3. Always wear gloves when handling respirator.

For the HCP returning to work:

1. Beginning of shift: Retrieve your white, stapled paper bag with cleaned N95s.
2. Carefully open white bag (so as not to crush, fold, or otherwise alter the shape of the respirators or bag) to find decontaminated N95s with new brown bag enclosed.
3. Write first initial last name and department/unit on brown bag if name sticker is not on bag.
4. Retrieve N95 with oldest "first use" date from white bag.
5. Inspect N95, don per protocol. Makeup may discolor respirator, but this is okay.
6. Don N95, check for air leaks. Discard if respirator cannot pass fit/seal check.
7. Only use new N95 respirator when all decontaminated N95s fail inspection.
8. Each respirator in bag will have a tally/hash mark on front/center, indicating number of times it has completed decontamination process. Mark is added by EVS staff conducting decontamination.

Limited Reuse: Each respirator can go through decontamination up to 6 times,
OR until integrity of fit has been lost.

Once you receive a respirator with 6 tally/hash marks on it, wear it during your shift, then discard into garbage.



References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Johns Hopkins Medicine. (n.d.). Step 16 of 23: Remove the N95 respirator. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ppe-training/n95respirator_coveralls/doffing_16.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Doffing PPE: Removing the N95 respirator. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ppe-training/n95respirator_coveralls/doffing_16.html