



Process for the Limited Reuse and Extended Use of N95 respirators and Fluid-Resistant Face Shields

LIMITED REUSE

Limited reuse refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirators for multiple encounters with patients, but doffing after each encounter. The respirator is stored in between encounters and is donned prior to the next encounter with a patient.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

After completing care of a known or suspected COVID-19 patient:

1. Doff all PPE except mask and face shield before leaving a contaminated area (patient room or a completely cohorted COVID unit)
2. Perform hand hygiene while in the patient room
3. Exit room while wearing face shield and mask
4. Apply a clean pair of gloves
5. Remove face shield from the back of the head
6. Use a hospital-approved, non-bleach germicidal wipe (e.g. hydrogen peroxide) to disinfect face shield (wipe inside to outside) and allow to dry for recommended time on the germicidal wipe canister
7. Place clean face shield in dedicated paper bag to that individual employee (and patient where applicable) and place in designated area or hang on hook outside of patient room
8. Remove gloves
9. Perform hand hygiene
10. Remove N95 respirator from back of head
11. Place N95 respirator in dedicated paper bag to that individual employee (and patient where applicable) and place in designated area
12. Prior to reuse, wiping the face shield with alcohol may be helpful to remove any residue

EXTENDED USE

Extended use refers to the practice of wearing the same N95 respirators for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, *without removing* between patient encounters. Extended use is well suited to situations wherein multiple patients with the same infectious disease diagnosis, whose care requires use of a respirator, are cohorted (e.g., housed on the same hospital unit or same room).

Instructions: The N95 respirator is worn continuously by a provider taking care of multiple patients in a cohort. The Limited Reuse procedure above applies when patient care is complete or at the end of shift.