



## N-95 Respirator Reuse

### Policy

- Same provider may reuse N-95 respirator unless it becomes moist, physically damaged, soiled or contaminated with blood or body fluids.
- There is no limit for respirator use in terms of number of times or length of time.
- Reuse N95 respirator for different patient encounters as long as it is the same care provider.
- Use a face shield (preferred) or a surgical mask over an N95 respirator and/or other steps (e.g., masking patients, use of engineering controls), when feasible to reduce surface contamination of the respirator.

**Purpose:** Provide strategies to optimize supplies of disposable N95 filtering face piece respirators (commonly called "N95 mask or respirators") when there is limited supply. **Discard**

- Do not reuse N-95 respirator after performing an Aerosol-Generating Procedure (AGP). Examples of AGP: sputum induction, open suctioning of airways.
- Discard if it becomes moist, physically damaged, soiled or contaminated with blood or body fluids.

### Steps for Safe Re-donning (Reuse) of N-95 Respirators

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Take out new respirator.
3. Put on respirator and fit check.
4. Get paper bag, write your name on bag, leave on counter, and enter in patient room. Paper bags reduce risk of moisture build up that can promote microbial growth.
5. After exiting patient room, perform hand hygiene, don new pair of gloves, remove N-95 respirator. Avoid touching the inside portion of respirator.
6. Place N-95 respirator in a paper bag labelled with your name for later use.
7. Perform hand hygiene.
8. Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when donning a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check. Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortably on your face with a good seal.
9. Upon return, remove N-95 from bag, being careful not to touch inside of respirator.
10. Redon N95, perform fit check.
11. Replace N95 in bag.
11. Perform hand hygiene (and repeat process).