

Extended Use of N95 Respirators

In order to preserve our personal protective equipment (PPE), University Health System is moving to the **extended use of N95 filtering facepiece respirators, or N95s**, for healthcare personnel performing repeated aerosol-generating procedures.

Extended use has been recommended as an option for conserving respirators during previous respiratory pathogen outbreaks and pandemics.

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Extended use of N95 respirators is the practice of wearing the same N95 for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing the respirator between patient encounters.

The following area will implement extended use of N95 respirators while performing repeated aerosol-generating procedures:

- **Operating Room** personnel performing or in the room during aerosol generating procedures involving the respiratory tract

Healthcare personnel will be provided with one N95 respirator per person per shift.

To preserve the integrity and cleanliness of the N95 respirator, emphasis should be placed on the following:

- Leaving N95 in place throughout shift except during meals, during which the N95 should be appropriately doffed and placed in a paper bag
- N95 should not hang below mouth and nose as this increases likelihood of self-contamination
- Hand hygiene before and after contact with the N95
- Avoiding contact with the front or inside of the N95 when donning and doffing

N95 respirators should be discarded in the following circumstances:

- N95 respirator becomes soiled, contaminated, damaged, integrity is compromised, or becomes hard to breathe through
- At the end of the shift

The **Executive Director of Perioperative Services** will be the point of contact for N95 respirator distribution.

Please note: the COVID19 situation continues to evolve and these recommendations are based on data currently available. Recommendations are subject to change based on future clinical needs and evidence. We are evaluating disinfection methods to allow for reuse of N95 masks to avoid a shortage during the epidemic.