

Process for Reuse of Respirators

This document outlines the practice for limited reuse of NIOSH-certified N95 respirators which will be effective immediately following CDC criteria.

Reuse

Using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with the same patient but removing it after each encounter. The respirator is stored in between encounters to be put on again prior to the next encounter with that patient.

Process

- Staff entering an airborne isolation room are to be minimized and limited to those essential for care only. Students should not be entering airborne rooms. Visitors should also be limited.
- N95 respirators may be reused for patients requiring airborne. They are dedicated for reuse for a single user only.
- **The care giver is to be provided with one N95 respirator at the beginning of their shift.**
- **Between use storage:**
 - Label the strap with the wearer's name and hang in a dedicated storage area (multiple respirators should not touch each other) -or-
 - Place in a paper bag labeled with the user's name in a manner to ensure they do not become damaged or deformed.
- **Prior to reuse**, use a clean pair of gloves to:
 - Inspect for damage (ensure intact and shape maintained, straps not stretched out, nosepiece intact)
 - Don respirator and conduct a seal check.
 - Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene before entering patient room.
- **Discard** N95 respirator
 - At end of shift
 - Following use during aerosol generating procedures (e.g., intubation, open suctioning).
 - If contaminated with patient's blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids.
 - If damaged or hard to breathe through.
- Perform **hand hygiene**
 - Before and after touching or adjusting the respirator (if necessary for comfort or to maintain fit).
 - If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator.

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