

COVID-19

A message from Ballad Health Corporate
Emergency Operations Center (CEOC)



>> PLEASE READ AND CASADE TO ALL TEAM MEMBERS AND MEDICAL STAFF <<

TO: Ballad Health All

FROM: Ballad Health Corporate Emergency Operations Center

DATE: August 20, 2020

TITLE: Reuse of N95 respirators

ACTION: Please read and share with all team members and Ballad Health Medical Staff

Purpose:

- To prevent a shortage of respirators and eye protection
- To ensure our team members have access to the necessary supplies to perform patient care safely

Definitions

- Reuse refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with patients but removing it (doffing) between the encounters. The respirator is stored in between encounters and reused.
- Reuse of full-face shields is permitted. If disposable, the face shield will be dedicated for use by an individual. Disinfection of the face shield will be required between uses.

General guidelines

- Face masks, N95s and eye protection can be reused in a careful and limited way during periods of short supply.
- Limit room traffic and cluster care where possible by ensuring only those essential for patient care enter the room.
- Label the N95 respirator and the paper storage bag with the user's name before using to prevent reuse by another individual. Write name on elastic strap of N95.
- A barrier such as a full-face shield will always be worn over the N95 respirator to protect it from surface contamination during care.
- During patient care, DO NOT touch your mask or eye protection.

Do not reuse an N95 respirator if:

- The respirator is contaminated with blood or body fluids.
- The straps are stretched out, so they no longer provide enough tension for the respirator to seal to the face.

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- If the nosepiece or other fit enhancements are broken.
- The respirator is obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through.

Doffing guidance for reuse of respirators and full-face shields

1. While in patient's room, ONLY remove gown and gloves.
2. Exit room.

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3. Perform hand hygiene.
4. Don clean gloves.
5. Lay a disinfectant wipe on a flat surface.
6. Carefully remove face shield by grasping side band. Do not touch the front of the face shield.
7. Place the face shield on the disinfectant wipe.
8. Sanitize gloves.
9. Remove N95 by straps. First, remove the lower strap, and then the upper strap.
10. Place N95 in brown paper bag labeled with the name of the individual for storage.
11. Sanitize gloves.
12. Wipe front, back and band of face shield. Allow to fully dry.
13. Wipe surface where face shield was placed.
14. Remove gloves.
15. Wash hands with soap and water.

Process to reuse your disposable N95 respirator

Donning:

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Don gown.
3. Don gloves.
4. Remove N95 from paper storage bag and visually inspect. If damaged or bent, do not use.
5. Don N95.
6. Perform a seal check on N95.
7. No air should be felt around the perimeter while blowing out.
8. Do not reuse N95 if you cannot obtain a good seal.
9. Don full face shield.
10. Sanitize gloves.
11. Do not touch face or adjust mask inside room.

Instructions for reuse of full face shields

1. If face shield is designed for reuse, clean it, following the above during doffing.
2. If face shield is meant to be disposable, it is dedicated to an individual healthcare worker, as the foam piece cannot be adequately disinfected between personnel. Label face shield with that individual's name.
3. Disinfect disposable face shield using process above during doffing.
4. Disposable face shields may be re-used until damaged, bent or visibly soiled.

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