

REUSE OR EXTENDED USE OF N95 RESPIRATORS

COVID-19

REUSE:

removal of N95 respirator between patients

***CDC recommended for pandemics**

VS

EXTENDED USE:

use of the same N95 respirator for repeated close contact with multiple patients without removal of respirator between (acceptable when patients have the same respiratory pathogen)

Healthcare facilities need to establish clear procedures to advise staff on **acceptable reuse of N95 respirators to help reduce contact transmission.**

- Discard respirators that have been used during an **aerosol generating procedure**
- Discard respirator if **contamination with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids** occurs
- Discard following close contact with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease that requires contact precautions
- Use respirator with a clean face shield (best) or surgical mask, and/or other steps such as masking the patient, to reduce surface contamination of respirator



Storage & Donning of Used N95 Respirators

- Hang respirators in a **designated storage space** OR **store them in a clean and breathable container** (such as a paper bag) between uses
- Respirators should be stored so they do not touch and so that the person using the respirator is clearly identified
- **All storage containers should be cleaned regularly or disposed of**
- **Clean hands with soap and water OR alcohol-based sanitizer before and after touching/adjusting the respirator for wear**
- **Do not touch the inside of the respirator** -- if contact occurs, wash hands as described above
- Wear a pair of non-sterile gloves when re-donning the respirator and checking the seal, discard gloves when finished

Other Considerations for N95 respirators

- N95 respirators may be **reused up to 5 times**, unless otherwise specified by employer or manufacturer
- Discard any respirator that is clearly damaged or hard to breathe through
- Each reused respirator should have **ONLY ONE WEARER**



Genesee County
Health Department
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