

N95 Respirator Reuse – Instructions for Donning and Doffing

Initial donning of the N95 respirator and personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Before entering the room:
- Perform hand hygiene
- Don gown
- Don the N95 respirator
- Perform a negative/positive seal check by doing the following:
 - No air should be felt around the perimeter while blowing out. If you feel air coming out it is not a tight seal.
 - When taking a small breath in, the mask should pucker in slightly. If it does not, it is not a tight seal.
 - When breathing out you should feel the respirator expand slightly. If it does not, it is not a tight seal.
 - If you cannot maintain a tight seal, the respirator cannot be used.
 - Ensure the mask is breathable, if you are unable to breathe in the mask, the respirator cannot be used.
- Don gloves following seal check
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination

Doffing the N95 respirator when a *full-face shield barrier* is used

- While in the patient's room, ONLY remove gloves then gown (avoid cross-contamination) close to the doorway
- Perform hand hygiene
- Exit patient room
- Perform hand hygiene and don gloves
- Use a germicidal wipe to prepare a surface upon which the face shield will be placed
- Perform hand hygiene and remove the face shield. The front is potentially contaminated, so remove carefully by bending forward and using the elastic band on the back of the head.
- Disinfect the face shield before placing it on the prepared surface
- Observe manufacturers contact and dry time
- Doff gloves, perform hand hygiene, remove respirator (don't touch the front) and perform hand hygiene
- After completing all doffing steps:
 - Store face shield for reuse
 - Store N95 respirator per storage instructions (below)
 - Perform hand hygiene

Storage of previously worn N95 respirator

- After removing N95 respirator, visually inspect for contamination, distortion in shape/form. If contaminated/wet, creased or bent, N95 respirator should be discarded.
- If the N95 respirator is NOT visibly contaminated or distorted, carefully store it to avoid destroying the shape of the mask.
- The N95 respirator should be stored in a well-ventilated container (i.e., paper bag with handles) with user's name and date.
- A disposable N95 respirator can be worn for several hours and multiple shifts if not wet or distorted, not touched while delivering patient care, and not involved in an aerosol-generating procedure.

Instructions to re-use N95 respirator

- Use a pair of clean gloves when donning a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check.
- Remove N95 respirator from paper storage bag (by the straps) and visually inspect for distortion. If creased or bent do not re-use.
- Avoid touching inside of N95 respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, discard the respirator and perform hand hygiene.
- Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortable on your face with a good seal.
- Perform hand hygiene
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination.

Visual Materials:

[Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Taking OFF airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Proper reuse of N95 with paper bag](#)

[Reusing face shield, eyewear, and N95](#)

Videos:

[Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Taking OFF airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

Resources:

1. Nebraska Medicine:

<https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19/COVID-Extended-Use-Reuse-of-PPE-and-N95.pdf?date=03182020>

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>