

Extended Use of N95 Respirators

“Extended use” refers to the practice of wearing the same N95 respirator for repeated close contact encounters with several patients, without removing the respirator between patient encounters.

DO:

- ✓ Use a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator to reduce contamination
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene immediately after removal or touching of N95
- ✓ Discard N95 respirator if obviously damaged or contaminated with blood or other secretions
- ✓ Discard N95 respirator following use during aerosol-generating procedures

DON'T:

- x Touch the external surface of the N95 respirator while wearing. Perform hand hygiene immediately if this occurs.
- x Continue to wear an N95 if breathing becomes difficult
- x Use an N95 that is soiled, contaminated, ripped, or damaged

Re-Use of N95 Respirators

“Reuse” refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with patients but removing it (‘doffing’) after each encounter. The respirator is stored in between encounters to be put on again (‘donned’) prior to the next encounter with a patient. ***Extended use of N95 respirators is always preferred over re-use.**

DO:

- ✓ Wear a cleanable face shield over the N95 respirator
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene before and after touching N95 respirator
- ✓ Store between uses in a clean, breathable container (i.e. paper bag) or hang in designated area
- ✓ Wear clean gloves when donning used N95 and perform a user seal check

DON'T:

- x Share an N95 respirator among staff
- x Re-use N95 more than 5 times (or more than manufacturer’s guidelines)
- x Re-use N95 if damaged or contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions
- x Re-use N95 used in an aerosol generating procedure

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