

Procedure Title:	Medical Mask and N95 Respirator Extended Use and Reuse Procedure	Procedure ID	6885
Department	*Infection Prevention, *Patient Safety		
Keywords	N95, N-95, respirator, use, extended, reuse, re-use, medical masks, procedure masks		

I. Purpose of Procedure

To ensure the safe extended use and reuse of N95 respirators when authorized by SVHC Incident Command Safety Officer during times of supply chain interruption.

II. Procedure Scope

This procedure applies to all SVMC staff. It applies to Medical facemasks and NIOSH certified N95 respirators, which are within their indicated shelf life or expired stock covered by an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) order.

III. Definitions

Medical Face Mask: Commonly known as surgical or procedure masks, they provide a physical barrier which protects the user from hazards such as splashes of large droplets of blood or body fluids. Medical facemasks also protect other people against infection from the person wearing the surgical mask. Such masks trap large particles of body fluids that may contain bacteria or viruses expelled by the wearer.

ASTM Rated Medical Face Mask: These masks are tested and rated through ASTM for fluid resistance. Ratings Level 1, 2 and 3 indicate an increasing level of fluid resistance and are all-appropriate for medical use. Level 2 are most commonly used at SVMC.

Medical facemasks are used for several different purposes, including the following:

- Placed on sick people to limit the spread of infectious respiratory secretions to others.
- Worn by healthcare providers to prevent accidental contamination of patient's wounds by the organisms normally present in mucus and saliva.
- Worn by workers to protect themselves from splashes or sprays of blood or bodily fluids; they may also keep contaminated fingers/hands away from the mouth and nose.

N95: A filtering face piece respirator meeting the NIOSH classification for N95 capture efficiency. (e.g. 3M N95)

Face Shield: A clear plastic device that attaches as the forehead, extends below the chin and wraps around the face protecting the eyes and face from droplets and splashes

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

PUI: Person Under Investigation (i.e. Person has not tested positive for an infectious pathogen but is suspect).

Extended Use: Refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator or medical mask for an extended period (e.g. during the entire shift).

Reuse: Refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator or medical mask for multiple encounters with patients but removing it ('doffing') after each encounter or series of encounters. The respirator is stored in between encounters to be put on again ('donned') prior to the next encounter with a patient.

IV. Equipment

- N95 respirator or Medical facemask
 - Gloves
 - Uncoated paper bag labeled with users name
- Contact Materials Management for any required supplies or equipment.

V. Procedure

Note: These action are to be taken in conjunction with appropriate donning and doffing methods and sequences.

Limitation of Extended Use and Reuse

- A single mask may be reused throughout the course of a single shift by a single individual.
- A face shield should be worn to protect the mask from external droplet contamination.
- A mask with face-shield may be reused for multiple patients who have tested positive for the same pathogen.
- The same mask should not be used between a person who tested positive for a specific pathogen (e.g. COVID 19) and a PUI or negative for that pathogen.
- Masks that have been known to be contaminated (i.e. sneezed in) or is visibly contaminated with anybody fluid should be discarded after use.
- If severe moisture build up impacts respiratory effort, dispose of the mask.
- At the end of a shift, masks and face shields must be placed in the specifically marked collection container and shall not be discarded in trash or biohazard waste containers.



A. Gathering N95 and Brown Lunch Bag

- Start of shift, go to the equipment area
- Gather your appropriately size and brand of N95 that you were fit tested to or obtain your medical mask.
- Get a brown lunch bag and write your name on it.

B. Doffing

- Perform hand hygiene and put on non-sterile gloves.
- Hold face shield on outside surface and slip off head when tipped forward.
- Wipe exterior surface of face shield with disinfecting wipe.
- Change gloves.
- Tip head forward.
- Cup the mask in one hand and remove straps with the other.
 - Allow straps to dangle below the mask and assure they do not contact the inside surface of the mask.
- Lower the mask away from your face.
- Without contacting the inside of the mask with your gloved hand, gently place the mask into the opened paper bag.
- Doff gloves
- Perform Hand Hygiene.
- The bag may be stored either open or with the top folded over once to facilitate drying.
 - Do not place two masks in one paper bag.

C. Donning

- Using a clean-gloved hand, remove the mask from the paper bag by *scooping* it up from the exterior side of the mask.
- Tip head forward.
- For 3M Mask:
 - ☞ Without contacting the inside of the mask, using a cupped hand, place the mask to your face.
 - ☞ Using the other hand, appropriately position the straps on the crown of your head and on your neck
- Doff gloves, perform hand hygiene.

VI. References

CDC. (2018). Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Face piece Respirators in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

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