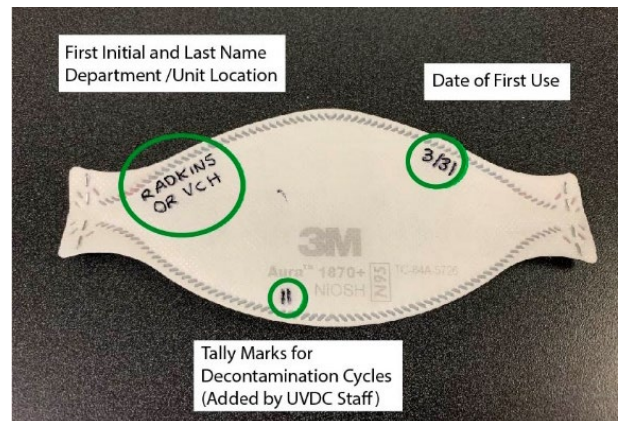


N95 Respirator UV Disinfection and Reuse Process

UV Disinfection is only appropriate at this time for N95 respirators used on non-COVID+ patients.

The following steps are followed for UV disinfection:

- Using a permanent marker, label the N95 Respirator with your first initial, last name, date of first use and department on the edge of the respirator as seen in the picture below (this is important to ensure return of your mask)
- Carefully place your “dirty” N95 Respirators in a new brown paper bag (respirator considered “dirty”) - ensure your name and department is on the bag
- Respirators sent for UV disinfection will be returned to you in a new white paper bag (respirator considered “disinfected”) stapled at the top with your name and unit
- The white bag will include a new brown bag to be used as your next “dirty” discard bag.
- Tally marks will be added to the respirator by disinfection staff each time the mask undergoes the disinfection process.
- All UV disinfected N95 Respirators will be kept in the white “clean” paper bag
- Note the location of your area’s “dirty drop off” and “clean pickup” stations
- Each health care professional is responsible for ensuring the proper fit and integrity of each respirator upon re-use



N95 Respirator UV Disinfection and Reuse Process

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I start this process? What should I put my used respirators in to send to disinfection unit for the first time?

As the program expands and if your area is identified as a candidate for the UV disinfection program, your department will be given large sized brown lunch bags for your unit/department/clinic to get started. Please be sure your name & location are written on your brown bag. Your respirator also needs to be labeled appropriately.

Inpatient units (or ancillary/support service area): How do I get my brown bag to the disinfection unit?

We will have staff who will pick up from designated locations on each unit. When you have a load of used respirators that are ready for UV disinfection, call 615-336-7692

Inpatient units (or ancillary/support service area): When should my unit/department call for pickup of used respirators for delivery to the disinfection unit?

You may call for pickup of used respirators for UV disinfection at any time. You may find it easiest to call for the pickup of a batch of used respirators, in their brown bags, at the end of each shift, or you may choose to send them more frequently throughout the day.

Surgery unit/off site: How do I get my used respirator(s) to the disinfection unit for processing?

Each day a courier will come to pick up your site's batch of used respirators. Please ensure your brown bag has your name and site on it. Please ensure respirator is marked correctly. All brown bags need to be placed in the plastic tote to be sent for disinfection and labeled as biohazard for N-95 project

What time will the courier come to the off campus sites to pick up used and drop off clean respirators?

Ask your clinic manager what the designated times are for your site. (This will often occur after the clinic hours have ended. Clean masks will be returned the next morning before the clinic opens.)

Do the brown bags and white bags need to be stored in a particular area on my unit/department?

Yes! Please designate a "dirty pick up" location AND "clean delivery" location for your unit/department/site. These need to be in separate areas.

I often work in multiple units. How will I get my respirators returned to me in the correct location?

Staff can choose to have their disinfected respirators returned to the area they last worked (or work most frequently). Ensure your brown bag is labeled with that location. Staff can choose to have their disinfected respirators returned to the area they last worked. Ensure your brown bag is labeled with that location. You may also to designate your location as **FLOAT** in which case your clean, disinfected respirators will be stored in the Float holding area in MCE 3164. You can then pick your own white bag up from that area at the start of your next shift.

How do I label my respirator?

Use a permanent marker to label your respirator with your FIRST INITIAL, LAST NAME, DEPARTMENT, DATE OF FIRST USE. A mark will be placed by the disinfection staff for each time the N95 is processed. The maximum number of UV disinfection cycles is 3.

N95 Respirator UV Disinfection and Reuse Process

Frequently Asked Questions (II):

What if I have used a respirator on a patient that is suspected of COVID-19 and has a test pending?

At the start of this program, we would treat those the same as a COVID-19 patient and opt not to reuse the device. For those areas that are using N95s for universal procedures, like intubation in asymptomatic patients who do not have clinical symptoms of COVID-19 and are not being specifically tested for COVID-19, UV disinfection is an option.

How should I handle the respirator when placing into the brown bag?

- Put on a new pair of gloves after performing hand hygiene.
- Remove N95 and visually inspect for contamination, distortion in shape/form. If contaminated/wet, creased or bent, N95 should be discarded.
- If the N95 is NOT visibly contaminated or distorted, carefully store in brown paper bag to avoid destroying the shape and consistency of the mask.
- Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene

Why do I need to keep the same respirator? Can't I use any respirator that has been disinfected?

Because these require a specific tight fit to your face, respirators will conform to your facial characteristics. As such, reuse of another person's respirator may not provide the same level of fit.

How often can a specific respirator be reused? Why?

Because the UV disinfection process can over time harm the integrity of the respirator, the protocol only allows for reuse of a specific respirator 3 times post-disinfection out of an abundance of caution. Damage to the device should not occur after this limited amount of disinfection cycles.

Should I perform a fit check when I don a respirator that has undergone the decontamination process?

Yes! Each healthcare provider is responsible for ensuring the integrity of fit (no leaks) before reuse. **Pay special attention to the nose piece, foam, and straps.** You as the user should not use and must discard if respirator is damaged or does not have a tight seal.