



CONSERVING N95s

N95s, or filtering face piece respirators, are an important protective measure to help against various hazards, including COVID-19. Typically, N95s are a single use item that are disposed of after each use. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a worldwide shortage of N95s. As such, it's important for us to conserve and extend the use of the N95, where appropriate. The following best practice is for employees that wear an N95 that DO NOT work in direct patient care or close contact with others during aerosol generating procedures.

N95 REUSE BEST PRACTICES:

1. Wash hands vigorously with soap and running water for a minimum of 20 seconds before removing the N95.
2. Remove the mask and place in a clean paper bag, mark the date on the bag, and wash your hands again.
3. The following day, get a new N95 to wear. Remove it and place in a new paper bag, mark the date, and wash hands.
4. Repeat this every day for 5 days.
5. After 5 days, reuse the first day's N95. The following day, use the 2nd day's N95, and so on for each of the 5 masks.
6. Repeat this process so each mask is worn UP TO 5 times.
7. Dispose of your mask and get a new one if at any time:
 - It becomes wet, visibly soiled, or difficult to breathe through.
 - You don't feel like your pre-worn mask is fitting snugly against your face. (Remember to do a seal check every time you put on your N95)
 - You have doubts about the integrity of your mask.

WHAT TO DO!

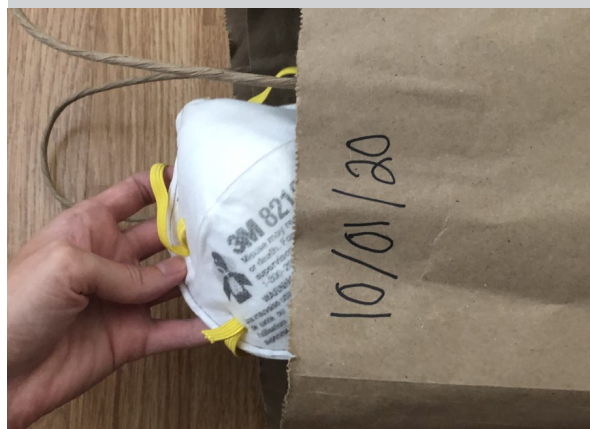
- Contact EHS to complete required N95 training if you will wear one within the scope of your work, or to discuss voluntary use in the workplace when a hazard does not meet a regulated exposure limit.
- Try to conserve N95 masks. Use only what you need, and reuse when appropriate by following the steps above.
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield over the N95 to reduce surface contamination to the N95.
- Some N95s can be decontaminated through Battelle which uses vaporized hydrogen peroxide to decontaminate N95s that are non-cellulose and don't have an exhalation valve. Contact EHS to determine if this is an option for your N95.



Example N95 respirator.



Wash your hands for 20 seconds before removing or putting on a N95.



Store the used N95 in a paper bag marked with the date.

