

Guidance For Wearing Respirators (N95)

Respirators

Fit -tested N95 respirators or equivalent are a tight-fitting mask that when properly fitted to the face protect the wearer from very small particles that float in the air. If a N95 is **NOT** fit-tested it is considered a medical mask. Healthcare workers may choose to wear a non-fit-tested N95 respirator as a medical mask.

Fit tested respirators (N95) must be used by healthcare workers in the following scenarios:

- As part of the point of care risk assessment (PCRA)
- When caring for or in contact with patients or residents placed on Airborne Precautions (i.e., patient or resident has suspected or confirmed tuberculosis, measles, or chicken pox)
- When involved in an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) on a patient with signs and symptoms of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS, tuberculosis, or other Novel respiratory infection).

N95 respirators must be discarded when:

- Following use during AGMPs,
- When contaminated with blood, respiratory secretions, or bodily fluids from patients,
- When moving from caring for patients positive for COVID-19 to caring for patients negative for COVID-19, and
- When leaving a room requiring Airborne Precautions (e.g., tuberculosis, measles, or chicken pox).

Extended use of N95 respirators may be considered when caring for multiple patients with COVID-19. When extending the use of N95 respirators, the respirator must be covered by a full-face shield and not be contaminated.

Store as follows:

- Pack or store so the respirator does not become damaged,
- Label containers with the user's name,
- Perform hand hygiene when donning and doffing the respirator,
- Store respirators in a manner that is clean, breathable, and dry, and
- If a paper bag is used for storage, discard the bag after use.

Dos and Don'ts of Wearing an N95 Respirator:

Dos:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DO wear a fit-tested respirator (N95) when caring for or in contact with patients on Airborne Precautions. ✓ DO wear a fit-tested Respirator (N95) for patients with a suspect, probable, or confirmed Novel viral respiratory tract infection (such as COVID-19) who require AGMPs. ✓ DO follow manufacturer's instructions for donning and removal of respirator. ✓ DO check to make sure respirator has no defects, such as tears, holes, or torn straps. ✓ DO perform hand hygiene before and after removing respirator. ✓ DO complete a 'fit or seal check' every time you wear a respirator to ensure a tight seal. ✓ DO remove respirator correctly- tilt head forward & remove by pulling bottom strap over back of head, followed by top strap without touching front of mask - pull away from face in downward motion. ✓ DO discard respirator in appropriate waste receptacle.
Don'ts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DON'T wear a respirator for Airborne Precautions that you have not been fit tested for. ✓ DON'T wear if wet or soiled, put on a new respirator. ✓ DON'T allow respirator to hang or dangle around your neck. ✓ DON'T touch the front of the respirator when wearing or during removal. ✓ DON'T let patients or visitors wear respirators unless they have been fit -tested to wear it