

Site Applicability

All C&W Clinical Areas

Practice Level/Competencies

- Front line health care providers who are competent in the Donning & Doffing of additional precaution PPE for Airborne Isolation & AGMPs
- Fit tests to use of N95 masks

Policy Statement(s)

To preserve critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply levels, all used N95 masks that are free from visible soiling and damage are to be placed in the collection bin. These masks will be sterilized with vaporized hydrogen peroxide and stored as part of a provincial initiative for emergency backup supply of PPE.

This Policy & Procedure is interim for the application of the [COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Allocation Framework](#). When the PPE Allocation Framework reverts to a lower stage or normalizes, the collection of N95 masks will cease as directed by the Ministry of Health or PHSA leadership.

Equipment & Supplies

Collection bins for used N95 mask:

- Tall recycle bin with purple plastic liner with signage attached

Procedure

Steps & Rationale

STEPS	RATIONALE
<p>1. Perform diligent hand hygiene before doffing N95 respirator</p>	<p>Review to Doffing (Taking Off) PPE: Droplet & Contact and Airborne Precautions (Includes AGMPs) Procedure Clean all surfaces of hand and wrists with soap/water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p>
<p>2. Walk to N95 mask collection bin (located in soiled utility rooms). Do not touch N95 mask during this time.</p>	<div data-bbox="820 1381 1117 1766" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Collection Bins for N95 Masks</p>
<p>3. Doff N95 respirator by touching straps only. Grasp bottom strap from behind your head. Pull forward off your head, bending at the waist to allow mask to fall away from your face. Grasp top strap from behind your</p>	<p>All masks will be collected provided it is not visibly soiled or damaged, or used in procedures with cytotoxic drugs.</p>

<p>head. Pull forward off your head, bending at the waist to allow mask to fall away from your face and discard into the collection bin.</p>	<p>Examples of visible soiling include make up residue, bodily fluid residue, dirt, excessive wetness or saturation.</p> <p>Examples of damage include broken elastic straps, tears, holes, deformed nose piece, foam seal detached, or excessive creases in material.</p> <p>Masks to be discarded when visibly soiled or damaged and/or used in procedures with cytotoxic drugs.</p>
<p>4. Perform diligent hand hygiene</p>	<p>Clean all surfaces of hand and wrists with soap/water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p>
<p>5. A porter will collect the used N95 masks and deliver to MDRD for reprocessing</p>	<p>It is important to not put surgical masks, other PPE such as visors, gloves or gowns in the bins. This is not a garbage or waste bin.</p> <p>If there is garbage, recyclables, or medical waste deposited in the N95 collection bin, the collected masks cannot be reprocessed.</p>

References

- BCCDC March 2020. Coronavirus COVID-19: The 9 Steps to Doff (take off) personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Provincial Infection Control Network of BC. 2019. Novel Coronavirus: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures in Healthcare Settings.

Version History

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
09-Apr-2020	C-0506-11-60604 COVID-19: N95 Mask Collection	Developed by CW COVID Response Working Group; Approved by Professional Practice Director
22-Sept-2020	"	Updated; Approved by Professional Practice Director

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