

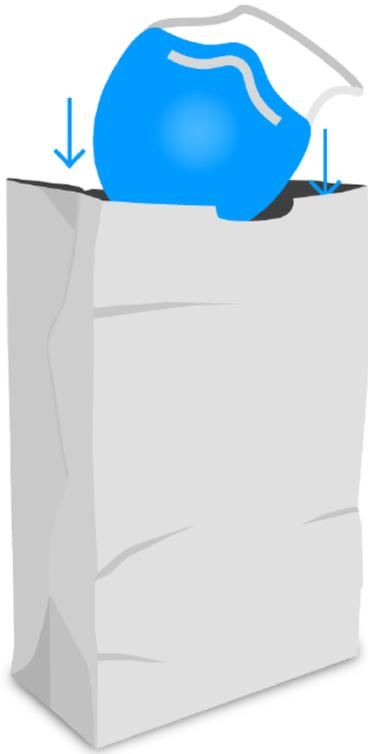
Respirator Reuse Recommendations

There is no way of determining the maximum possible number of safe reuses for an N95 respirator as a generic number to be applied in all cases. Safe N95 reuse is affected by a number of variables that impact respirator function and contamination over time.(18, 19) However, manufacturers of N95 respirators may have specific guidance regarding reuse of their product. The recommendations below are designed to provide practical advice so that N95 respirators are discarded before they become a significant risk for contact transmission or their functionality is reduced.

If reuse of N95 respirators is permitted, respiratory protection program administrators should ensure adherence to administrative and engineering controls to limit potential N95 respirator surface contamination (e.g., use of barriers to prevent droplet spray contamination) and consider additional training and/or reminders (e.g., posters) for staff to reinforce the need to minimize unnecessary contact with the respirator surface, strict adherence to hand hygiene practices, and proper PPE donning and doffing technique, including physical inspection and performing a user seal check.(16) Healthcare facilities should develop clearly written procedures to advise staff to take the following steps to reduce contact transmission:

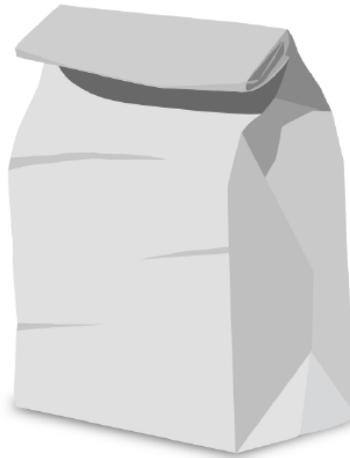
- Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures.
- Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.
- Discard N95 respirators following close contact with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions.
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield (preferred³) over an N95 respirator and/or other steps (e.g., masking patients, use of engineering controls), when feasible to reduce surface contamination of the respirator.
- Hang used respirators in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store respirators so that they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.
- Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the respirator (if necessary for comfort or to maintain fit).
- Avoid touching the inside of the respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, discard the respirator and perform hand hygiene as described above.
- Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when donning a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check. Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortably on your face with a good seal.

Complete Info is at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>



Remove the respirator and place it in a breathable paper bag **no plastic bags**.

Close the bag and allow it to sit at room temperature for at least **7 days**. Wash your hands after handling.



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This Process Can Now be used for 72 Hours

4 bags + 4 Masks Wear 1 mask each day and then let each mask rest in its bag for 72 hours.

****The back of this page explains when to dispose of a reused mask**



For healthcare workers that have seven respirators, assign one for each day of the week. By the time you have returned back to Monday it will have been seven days and the mask is safe to use.

Note: This method can be used for all masks but fabric masks only require two days.

1. Treat your mask like a biohazard.

Isolate it from the rest of your family. "You don't want to be leaving it on the kitchen counter or the coffee table where other people may inadvertently be handling it," says Kirsten Koehler, an associate professor of environmental health and engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

2. Wash your hands with soap every time you remove or even touch the mask.

Act as if the virus is on both sides of the fabric. Make sure to wash your hands properly for at least 20 seconds.

Karina Zaiets, and Ramon Padilla, USA TODAY Updated 5:34 p.m. EDT Apr. 27, 2020