

COVID N95 DECON



DONNING & DOFFING

This is an example process. Specifics will vary between hospitals. Relevant hospital personnel should be consulted before any process implementation. This process can be used with an **in-hospital**, return to index user decontamination method. It may not be compatible with external decontamination services.

DONNING

Each don/doff can reduce N95 fit. In one study the fit factor was observed to drop with each don/doff, and after five dons was consistently below the OSHA standard of 100.¹

- If using a **new** N95, label with a soft-tipped permanent marker:
 - First initial and last name
 - Transfer Station location code^{*}
- If using a **decontaminated** N95:
 - Retrieve N95 from your spot in the **CLEANED** section
 - Inspect for damage or elongated straps and dispose of damaged N95 respirators
 - Add a tally mark on the N95 to indicate another decontamination cycle has been performed
- Don PPE according to institution guidelines
 - Perform a user seal check^{3,4}
 - Perform hand hygiene before donning further PPE

Labeled N95 FFRs



Different hospitals have chosen to label either the N95 facepiece or strap.⁶ The effect of labeling on N95 integrity or decontamination is unknown.

DOFFING

Improper doffing has been shown to expose the wearer to contamination risk.⁵ Proper doffing **must** accompany decontamination.

- Doff other PPE according to institution guidelines
- For N95 doffing:
 - At Transfer Station, obtain a breathable bag labeled with first initial, last name, and Transfer Station location code
 - Put on clean gloves
 - Remove N95 following CDC guidelines^{2,4}
 - Only hold straps, do not touch front of N95 when doffing
 - Do not touch or allow potentially contaminated materials (such as N95 straps) to touch the inside of the N95⁶
 - Inspect N95; dispose of it if damaged, soiled, or unlabeled
 - Place N95 into breathable bag, then place bag into assigned spot in the **DIRTY** section
 - Perform hand hygiene before doffing any further PPE



CDC user seal check with clean gloves⁴

Place both hands over the respirator, take a quick breath in to check whether the respirator seals tightly to the face.

Place both hands completely over the respirator and exhale. If you feel leakage, there is not a proper seal.



CDC N95 doffing with clean gloves⁴

DO NOT TOUCH the front of a used respirator! It may be contaminated.

Remove by pulling the bottom strap over back of head, followed by top strap, without touching the respirator.

^{*}Transfer Station setup is described in N95DECON document 'Example Return to Index User Setup and Logistics'

REFERENCES

- [1] Bergman et al., 2012; [2] CDC Doffing: https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ppe-training/n95respirator_coveralls/doffing_16.html ; [3] OSHA Seal Check: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGXiUyAoEd8> ; [4] NIOSH Doffing <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-133/default.html> ; [5] Brady et al., 2017; [6] UNMC Reuse Guide <https://app1.unmc.edu/nursing/heroes/mpv.cfm?updateindex=132&src=yt>

The Content provided by N95DECON is for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY and DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE PROVIDING OF MEDICAL ADVICE and IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL JUDGMENT, ADVICE, DIAGNOSIS, OR TREATMENT. Use or reliance on any Content provided by N95DECON is SOLELY AT YOUR OWN RISK. A link to the full N95DECON disclaimer can be found at <https://www.n95decon.org/disclaimer>.

