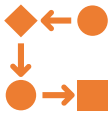
Limited Reuse Best Practices for N95 Respirators

N95 respirator reuse is often referred to as “limited reuse”. Limited reuse has been recommended and widely used as an option for conserving respirators during previous respiratory pathogen outbreaks and pandemics. Use the following considering when developing re-use policies:

<table>
<tr><td>  </td><td colspan="2">Encourage extended use when possible and contact your manufacturer to determine the recommended number of reuses.

Safe N95 reuse is affected by a number of variables that impact respirator function and contamination over time. Manufacturers of N95 respirators may have specific guidance regarding reuse of their product. If no manufacturer guidance is available, data suggests limiting the number of reuses to no more than five uses per device to ensure an adequate safety margin.</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>Engineering controls:
AIIR rooms (if available)
Ventilation
Barriers (e.g. curtains)</td><td>Administrative controls:
Limit close contact time
Cohorting
Telemedicine</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td colspan="2">Consider additional training and 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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td colspan="2">Healthcare facilities should develop clearly written procedures to advise staff to take steps to reduce contact transmission after donning. For example:<ol type="a">
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).
Use a cleanable face shield (preferred) and/or other steps (e.g., masking patients, use of engineering controls), when feasible to reduce surface contamination of the respirator.
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.
Avoid touching the inside of the respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, discard and perform hand hygiene as described above.
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</td></tr>
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	respirator is clearly identified. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.
	**Secondary exposures can occur from respirator reuse** if respirators are shared among users and at least one of the users is infectious. Healthcare facilities should develop clearly written procedures to inform users to label containers used for storing respirators or label the respirator itself (e.g., on the straps) between uses with the user's name to reduce accidental usage of another person's respirator.
	Healthcare facilities should develop **clearly written procedure**s to advise staff to **discard** any respirator that is obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through. For example: a. Discard N95 respirators if they become visibly soiled or after splash/spray/aerosol-generating procedures. b. Discard any respirator that is obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through

Kansas
Department of Health and Environment