



The information below contains excerpts from CDC articles that can be read in their entirety at: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/crisis-alternate-strategies.html>

When N95 supplies are running low, limited re-use of N95 respirators when caring for patients with COVID-19 might become necessary.

Reuse refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with patients but removing it ('doffing') after each encounter.

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. 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.

- Discard N95 respirators following use during **aerosol generating procedures** (nebulizer, CPAP, or intubation).
- 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.
- Store respirators in a 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.