

Instructions for Medical/Surgical Mask Use and Reuse

To Doff Facemask with Intent to Reuse

1. **Perform hand hygiene**
2. **Remove mask:**
 - a. Remove medical mask by holding the ear loops. The front is contaminated, so remove slowly and carefully. Do not let loops touch your face.
 - b. Remove surgical mask by untying lower ties FIRST. Untie upper ties last. The front is contaminated, so remove slowly and carefully. Ensure ties do not fall into clean interior side of mask.
3. After removing facemask, **visually inspect for contamination**, distortion in shape/form. If soiled, torn, or saturated the mask should be discarded.
4. If the facemask is NOT visibly soiled, torn, or saturated, carefully fold so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container.
5. **Perform hand hygiene**

To Re-Don Mask

1. **Perform hand hygiene and don gloves**
2. Grasp used mask:
 - a. Pinch procedure mask at the ear loops or
 - b. Grasp upper ties on surgical mask
3. Place over face:
 - a. For medical mask: Secure ear loops behind the ears. Secure mask.
 - b. For surgical mask: Secure upper ties first, behind head. End by securing lower ties behind head.
4. **Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene**

A disposable facemask can be worn throughout your shift if not visibly soiled, torn or saturated, and NOT touched while delivering patient care.

Please see next page for donning/doffing steps when only gown & gloves are being replaced.

Donning Steps When Replacing Gown & Gloves ONLY (Extending use of N95 Respirators/Facemasks and Eye Protection):

- **Before entering the patient room:**
- Identify and gather the gown and gloves to don
- **Perform hand hygiene**
- **Put on gown.** Ensure that the gown fits. Tie all of the ties on the gown. Be careful to avoid touching face and eye protection while putting on gown.
- **Put on gloves.** Gloves should cover the cuff (wrist) of gown.
- **Enter patient room**

Doffing Steps When Only Gown and Gloves are Being Removed:

- **Before exiting the patient room:**
- **Remove gloves.** Ensure glove removal does not cause additional contamination. Gloves can be removed using a more than one technique, e.g., glove-in-glove, and duckbill.
- **Remove gown.** Do not touch the outer surface of the gown. While touching the closures or inside surface of the gown, slowly pull arms out of sleeves. Roll up gown outwards, drop in trash.
- **Perform hand hygiene**
- **Exit patient room**

Visual Materials:

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

Video:

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

Resources:

1. Nebraska Medicine:
<https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19/surgical-mask-policy-and-faq-nebraska-med.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

N95 Respirator Reuse – Instructions for Donning and Doffing

Initial donning of the N95 respirator and personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Before entering the room:
- Perform hand hygiene
- Don gown
- Don the N95 respirator
- Perform a negative/positive seal check by doing the following:
 - No air should be felt around the perimeter while blowing out. If you feel air coming out it is not a tight seal.
 - When taking a small breath in, the mask should pucker in slightly. If it does not, it is not a tight seal.
 - When breathing out you should feel the respirator expand slightly. If it does not, it is not a tight seal.
 - If you cannot maintain a tight seal, the respirator cannot be used.
 - Ensure the mask is breathable, if you are unable to breathe in the mask, the respirator cannot be used.
- Don gloves following seal check
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination

Doffing the N95 respirator when a *full-face shield barrier* is used

- While in the patient's room, **ONLY** remove gloves then gown (avoid cross-contamination) close to the doorway
- Perform hand hygiene
- Exit patient room
- Perform hand hygiene and don gloves
- Use a germicidal wipe to prepare a surface upon which the face shield will be placed
- Perform hand hygiene and remove the face shield. The front is potentially contaminated, so remove carefully by bending forward and using the elastic band on the back of the head.
- Disinfect the face shield before placing it on the prepared surface
- Observe manufacturers contact and dry time
- Doff gloves, perform hand hygiene, remove respirator (don't touch the front) and perform hand hygiene
- After completing all doffing steps:
 - Store face shield for reuse
 - Store N95 respirator per storage instructions (below)
 - Perform hand hygiene

Storage of previously worn N95 respirator

- After removing N95 respirator, visually inspect for contamination, distortion in shape/form. If contaminated/wet, creased or bent, N95 respirator should be discarded.
- If the N95 respirator is NOT visibly contaminated or distorted, carefully store it to avoid destroying the shape of the mask.
- The N95 respirator should be stored in a well-ventilated container (i.e., paper bag with handles) with user's name and date.
- A disposable N95 respirator can be worn for several hours and multiple shifts if not wet or distorted, not touched while delivering patient care, and not involved in an aerosol-generating procedure.

Instructions to re-use N95 respirator

- Use a pair of clean gloves when donning a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check.
- Remove N95 respirator from paper storage bag (by the straps) and visually inspect for distortion. If creased or bent do not re-use.
- Avoid touching inside of N95 respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, discard the respirator and perform hand hygiene.
- Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortable on your face with a good seal.
- Perform hand hygiene
- Consider use of a cleanable face shield over an N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination.

Visual Materials:

[Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Taking OFF airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Proper reuse of N95 with paper bag](#)

[Reusing face shield, eyewear, and N95](#)

Videos:

[Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Taking OFF airborne-contact precautions with eyewear](#)

[Reusing face and eye PPE – extended wear](#)

Resources:

1. Nebraska Medicine:

<https://www.nebraskamed.com/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19/COVID-Extended-Use-Reuse-of-PPE-and-N95.pdf?date=03182020>

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

Resources for Utilizing and Optimizing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Emory University School of Medicine developed printable visual documents on proper extended and reuse of PPE at: <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/conserving-ppe.html>

Printable Visual Materials:

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Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear

Taking OFF airborne-contact precautions with eyewear

Putting ON droplet-contact precautions with eyewear

Taking OFF droplet-contact precautions with eyewear

Videos:

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Putting ON airborne-contact precautions with eyewear

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Taking OFF droplet-contact precautions with eyewear