

Respirator Reuse Quick Guidance

Direct caregivers can request a new respirator once per day for any reason. However due to the state of emergency and PPE shortages we are providing the following re-use guidance.

Respirator may be reused by **one** person if:

- It's Clean
- It's Undamaged
- It was worn with a face shield or covered with a surgical mask
- It Has **NOT been used uncovered during an aerosol producing procedure**

Respirator **must be** discarded if:

- It was used during an aerosol producing procedure or it was used during close contact with a patient co-infected with a contact precaution illness without a covering face shield or mask*
- It is contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients**

*Submit the respirator for sterilization instead of disposal if your location has a sterilize-and-reuse process in place.

**DO not submit visibly contaminated respirators for sterilization even if your location has a sterilize-and-reuse process in place. Visibly contaminated respirators must be discarded.

When re-using a respirator:

- Avoid touching the inside of the respirator
- Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching, handling or adjusting the respirator
- Use a pair of clean gloves when donning a used respirator and when performing a seal check. Discard the gloves and clean hands after the respirator is donned.
- Hang used respirators in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. The respirator must be labeled so it is not accidentally used by a different person.

Refer to the Respiratory Protection Program for Infectious Aerosols on the RRH COVID-19 employee toolkit for more detailed guidance.