

Delta County Memorial Hospital
Policies & Procedures – COVID-19
DCMH POLICY FOR N95 DISINFECTION

Important Aspects of N95 reuse:

- ❖ Each provider must label their mask with name initials and department. The labeling should be done in small writing near the edge of the mask to avoid compromising the mask integrity. The mask will be marked each time it goes thru the disinfecting device and be discarded after 10 runs thru the VPro device.
- ❖ Each mask will be for one provider/one day use within the same patient cohort. Eg one provider can use the same mask among 4 Covid + patients without the need for changing masks between patients.
- ❖ Hand hygiene pre and post mask donning is important; the inside of the mask should not be touched donning/doffing. Makeup use is discouraged as it will soil the mask. Use a pair of clean gloves when donning the mask and perform a user seal check.
- ❖ After use, masks will be collected each day at sites in the ED (includes EMS), ward (includes ICU), OR (includes nurse anesthesia), clinics and home health (route to Vickie); these collections will be routed to Amber in the OR who will be in charge of mask treatment according to her policy.
- ❖ After disinfection, users will receive a redistribution of their masks and use them going forward
- ❖ N95 masks must be discarded if there is any visible contamination, visible damage (ie strap breakdown that cannot be made to function, nose bridge or nose foam material that is not degraded or anything that affects the quality of the fit and/or seal), or if they are used for aerosolizing procedures, such as intubation. Face shields or an exterior mask should be worn over the N95 mask to avoid contamination if circumstances warrant.

VAPOROUS HYDROGEN PEROXIDE (VHP) TECHNIQUE

- ❖ VHP is one of the preferred methods for N95 decontamination as described in the cdc website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html)
- ❖ N95 mask fit unaffected for up to 20 VHP treatments. Strap degradation of masks noted after 30 cycles. >99.999% antimicrobial efficacy with standard protocol.
- ❖ DCMH has received the documentation from Steris to use our V60 Pro (hydrogen peroxide) machine for sterilization of the N95 masks according to the regular policies governing use of the VHP system already in place. This technique can also be used for the masks and filters made from the blue/pink sterilizer wrap and these should also be returned for reprocessing.
- ❖ The turnaround time on this mask disinfection plan should be 24 hours.

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