


Policy & Procedure			
Title:	Respiratory Equipment Extended Use and Reuse CoVID-19		
Policy #:	HS-IEC- New		
Issuing Dept.:	Infection Prevention and Control	Effective Date:	03/11/2020
Approved by:	AltaMed Quality Committee	Revision Date:	
Distribution:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AltaMed Health Services Corporation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AltaMed Primary Care Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AltaMed PACE/Senior Buena Care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AltaMed Health Network <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Contracted Services	Review Date:	03/11/2020

Contact information

Purpose


1. To provide information and guidelines on the use and reuse of all masks used at AltaMed.
2. To ensure that AltaMed staff members have access to respiratory protection, masks, in order to meet the Cal/OSHA ATD Standard and to ensure prudent responsible use of this limited resource.
3. Control exposures to occupational hazards.
4. To prevent infectious disease transmission.
5. Cal/OSHA regulations require employers to develop policies for the use, cleaning and decontamination of (reusable respirators) and/or disposable (disposable respirators), as appropriate so that they remain effective in protecting employees and do not become a hazard.

SITUATION

Given the increased demand for respirators created by the CoVID-19, Coronavirus epidemic and the finite supply, the California Department Public Health has decided to release a portion of their stockpile of Masks, N-95 respirators and surgical masks. Measures to conserve respirator supplies to the extent reasonably possible may be implemented. These conservation measures are consistent with the Aerosol Ttransmissible Disease standards and the CDC Interim Infection Control guidance dated (2020), that delineates a hierarchy of controls to prevent CoVID-19 transmission in healthcare settings.

Policy

1. To ensure that Medical, Dental and PACE Center clinical administration ensures that AltaMed employees understand how to properly reuse the respiratory care equipment.
2. To prevent infectious disease transmission.

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Definitions

Extended Use

The practice of using the same mask for an extended period of time for multiple encounters with patients but without removing it (“doffing”) after each patient encounter. AltaMed Health Services Corporation will permit extended use of surgical face masks and N95 respirators as an Administrative Control and a change to the established respiratory protection program.


Reuse

The practice of using the same N95 respirator and surgical masks for multiple encounters with patients but removing it (“doffing”) after each encounter. AltaMed Health Services Corporation will permit **reuse** of surgical face masks and N95 respirators as an Administrative Control and a change to the established respiratory protection program.

Surgical Face Masks are recommended only for use by employees who need protection from both droplet and fluid hazards (e.g., splashes, sprays). If the employee may be exposed to splashes, sprays, or splatters of blood or body fluids, then a face-shield should be worn over the standard surgical mask. The surgical mask can be reused up to 5 times and then discarded.

N95 Respirators (sometimes called medical respirators) are recommended only for use by employees that need protection from both airborne and fluid hazards (e.g., splashes, sprays). A filtering face-piece respirator (FFR), such as an N95, may be reused as part of the AltaMed respiratory protection program and allow the practice of using the same N-95 Respirator multiple times during an eight to ten-hour work shift. If the employee may be exposed to splashes, sprays, or splatters of blood or body fluids, then a face-shield should be worn over the N-95 mask. The N-95 respirators may be reused 5 times and then discarded. The N-95 respirator may be stored properly between uses. N-95 respirators require annual fit testing.

Elastomeric Respirators are half-face-piece, tight-fitting respirators that are made of synthetic or rubber material permitting them to be repeatedly disinfected. If the employee may be exposed to splashes, sprays, or splatters of blood or body fluids, then a face-shield should be worn over the elastomeric respirator. The elastomeric respirator may be cleaned after each use with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and stored between uses. Elastomeric respirators require annual fit testing.


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Powered Air Purifying Respirators, PAPRs, are reusable respirators that are typically loose-fitting hoods or helmets. These respirators are battery-powered with a blower that pulls air through attached filters or cartridges. The filter is typically a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. Loose-fitting PAPRs do not require fit-testing and can be worn by people with facial hair. The PAPR may be cleaned with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and stored between uses.

Procedure

Surgical Face Masks


1. Perform Hand Hygiene.
2. Don the Surgical Face Mask.
3. Use a cleanable face shield over the surgical face mask to reduce surface contamination of the surgical face mask.
4. Doff the surgical face mask.
5. Hang or store used surgical face masks in a designated storage area in a clean, breathable environment or a container or a large paper bag that is open at the top to reduce risk of recontamination when preparing to re-don the face mask. Large paper bag may be replaced when contaminated, soiled or damaged. Containers may be disposed of or cleaned with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and/or replaced when contaminated, soiled or damaged.
6. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store surgical face mask so that they do not touch each other and the person using the surgical face mask is clearly identified.
7. Clean the face shield with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and store between uses.
8. Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the surgical face mask and/or face shield (if necessary, for comfort or to maintain fit).
9. Avoid touching the inside of the surgical face mask with hands or unclean surfaces. If inadvertent contact is made with the outside of the surgical face mask, perform hand hygiene as described above.

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10. Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when DONNING a used surgical face mask.
11. Discard gloves after the surgical face mask is DONNED and any adjustments are made to ensure the mask is sitting comfortably on your face with a good seal.
12. Perform Hand Hygiene
13. Discard any mask that is obviously dirty, damaged, the inside becomes contaminated or it becomes hard to breathe through, in the regular trash.
14. Discard surgical face masks that become contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients, in the regular trash.
15. Discard surgical face masks following contamination with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions in the regular trash.

N-95 Masks

1. Don the N-95 Mask Follow the steps in the Wear IT Right Poster.
2. Use a cleanable face shield (preferred) or a surgical mask over an N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination of the respirator.
3. Doff the N-95 Mask.
4. Hang or store used surgical face masks in a designated storage area in a clean, breathable environment or a container or a large paper bag that is open at the top to reduce risk of recontamination when preparing to re-don the face mask. Large paper bag may be replaced when contaminated, soiled or damaged. Containers may be disposed of or cleaned with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and/or replaced when contaminated, soiled or damaged.
5. 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 hooks/containers/storage surfaces may be disposed of or cleaned with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines as appropriate.


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6. Clean the face shield with an approved disinfectant bleach wipe per manufacturer guidelines and store between uses.
7. Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the surgical face mask and/or face shield (if necessary, for comfort or to maintain fit).
8. Avoid touching the inside of the respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the outside of the respirator, perform hand hygiene as described above.
9. Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when DONNING a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check.
10. 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.
11. Perform Hand Hygiene.
12. Discard any respirator that is obviously damaged, dirty, the inside becomes contaminated or it becomes hard to breathe through, in the regular trash.
13. Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures.
14. Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients, in the regular trash.
15. Discard N95 respirators following contamination with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions, in the regular trash.

ELASTOMERIC RESPIRATORS

Elastomeric respirators are half-face-piece, tight-fitting respirators

1. Don the Elastomeric Respirator. Follow the steps for Donning in the guidelines attached.
2. Use a cleanable face shield over the Elastomeric Respirator to reduce surface contamination.
3. Perform hand hygiene 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).
4. Discard any respirator filter that is obviously damaged or becomes hard to breathe through.

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Education & Training Plan

1. Initial New Hire Orientation may introduce Basic Infection Prevention and Control practices. The aspects of care required to perform Transmission Based Precautions, Donning and Doffing PPE, may be taught and return demonstrated as required for the tasks to be performed.
2. Clinic Administrators and Nurse Managers/Supervisors may ensure adherence to the procedure to limit potential surgical face mask and N95 respirator surface contamination (e.g., use of barriers to prevent droplet spray contamination, face shields). Additional training and reminders will be provided for employees to reinforce the need to minimize unnecessary contact with the respirator surface, strict adherence to hand hygiene practices, and proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donning and doffing technique.
3. Additional Training may be provided for employees, using the Learning Management System, Presentations, Videotapes, written materials and In-service class instruction.
4. Employees may receive Infection Prevention and Control refresher training related to Transmission Based Precautions, Hand Washing and Hand Hygiene as needed.
5. AltaMed Leadership personnel may be responsible for ensuring that the training is completed.

Implementation Monitoring Plan:

1. Work practice guidelines may be used to guide these processes and to eliminate or minimize exposure of employees at the facility, and to ensure employee and patient safety.
2. The listed work practice guidelines and engineering controls may be reviewed as required based on need or risks presented.
3. Observations of the practice of transmission based precautions may be evaluated for effectiveness. Monitoring may occur periodically during patient care delivery as appropriate, by the Medical, Dental and PACE Center Clinic Leadership or Designee.
4. Review, evaluation, and implementation of existing and new work practice guidelines may be made by the ICC through document review, review of OSHA records, employee interviews, and/or staff /ICC committee activities.

References & Citations

1. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/>

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2. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) <http://www.osha.gov/>

Forms & Attachments


Wear It Right 3M™ Respirators

3M™ 1860/1860S Health Care N95 Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask


APPLICATION:




1 Cup the respirator in your hand with the nosepiece at fingertips, allowing the head straps to hang freely below hand.




2 Position the respirator under your chin with the nosepiece up.




3 While holding the respirator in place, pull the top strap over your head so it rests high on the back of your head.




4 While continuing to hold the respirator firmly in place, pull the bottom strap over your head and position it around your neck, below your ears. Untwist the straps. Position the respirator low on your nose.



5 Using both hands, mold the nosepiece to the shape of your nose by pushing inward while moving your fingertips down both sides of the nosepiece. Note: Always use two hands when molding nosepiece. Pinching with one hand may result in improper fit and less effective respirator performance.




POSITIVE PRESSURE FIT CHECK




6 The respirator must be checked before each use. To perform the fit check, place both hands completely over the respirator, being careful not to disturb the position, and exhale sharply. If air leaks around your nose, adjust the nosepiece as described in step 5. If air leaks at respirator edges, adjust the straps back along the sides of your head. Perform fit check again if an adjustment is made. If you cannot achieve a proper fit, see your supervisor. Do not enter area requiring respirator use.


REMOVAL:



1 Without touching the respirator, slowly lift the bottom strap from around your neck up and over your head.



2 Lift off the top strap. Do not touch the respirator.



3 Store or discard according to your facility's infection control policy.


WARNING


This respirator helps protect against certain particulate contaminants, but does not eliminate exposure to or risk of contracting disease or infection. Misuse may result in sickness or death. For proper use, see your supervisor or call 3M Occupational Health and Environmental Safety Division Technical Services at 1-800-243-4630.


3M Health Care
 3M Center, Building 275-4W-02
 St. Paul, MN 55144-1000
 U.S.A.
 1 800 228-3957
www.3m.com/healthcare

3M Canada
 Post Office Box 5757
 London, Ontario N6A4T1
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 1 800-563-2021
 Outside of USA, please contact your 3M Representative




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Understanding the Difference

	 Surgical Mask	 N95 Respirator	 Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirator
Testing and Approval	Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84*	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84
Intended Use and Purpose	Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols)	Reusable device made of synthetic or rubber material
Face Seal Fit	Loose-fitting	Tight-fitting	Tight-fitting
Fit Testing Requirement	No	Yes	Yes
Designed for Reuse	No	No	Yes
User Seal Check	No	Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)	Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)
Filtration	Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection	Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles	May be equipped with filters that block 95%, 99%, or 100% of very small particulates. Also may be equipped to protect against vapors/gases.
Leakage	Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when user inhales	When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales	When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales
Use Limitations	Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures. It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids.	Reusable and must be cleaned/ disinfected and stored between each patient interaction

*As of July 2, 2016, NIOSH evaluates N95 FFRs intended for use in healthcare for biocompatibility, flammability, and fluid resistance to ensure conformity to relevant standards during the approval process. These tests were previously performed by the FDA.



Center for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

References:
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-137/pdfs/2015-137.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-137/pdfs/2015-137.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-137/pdfs/2015-137.pdf>