Best practice is to use new N95s. Decontamination does not solve the PPE shortage crisis, and is an emergency practice to be considered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efficacy and safety of N95 decontamination has not been fully characterized.

**CONCLUSION**

Heat and humidity for N95 decontamination is currently unproven for inactivation of SARS-CoV-2. Its use should be evaluated by relevant authorities. This is a low-cost technique that could be easy to implement in a wide range of settings. However, excessive thermal cycling may damage N95 fit and filtration. Moreover, this approach will NOT protect against all bacterial and mold co-infection risks. If risks are mitigated, this protocol merits future FDA feasibility studies.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- CDC has released guidance on heat and humidity for decontaminating N95s
- Many devices can maintain 65-80°C, 50-85% humidity (warming cabinets, water baths, autoclaves, ovens)
- Method has not been validated in an FDA-approved process

**CONTRIBUTORS**


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