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.

**CORONAVIRUS INACTIVATION**

*Data not available for COVID-19 on N95s*

- Hydrogen peroxide inactivates viruses and highly-resistant bacterial spores

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

Data from specific N95 models may not apply to other models

- Trained personnel required - HPV and HPGP systems are dangerous
- N95s should be isolated and returned to original user
- N95 user seal check should be performed before each reuse

Correct machine settings must be confirmed

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Note: ‘VHP’ and ‘HPV’ are sometimes used interchangeably but can also refer to different techniques.

- CDC released guidance on HPV for decontaminating N95s
- HPV systems have recently received FDA authorization
- Processing procedures for HPV have been developed
- HPGP systems are under review by the FDA
- Systems and processes are complex and dangerous and require trained personnel

**CONCLUSION**

If implemented properly, and N95s are not soiled, it is likely that both HPV and HPGP machine standard protocols inactivate SARS-CoV-2 and bacterial spores. HPGP and HPV are distinct processes, decontamination durations and maximum recommended reuse cycle recommendations are extremely different.

**SUPPORTING RESEARCH**


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