Students and faculty from the UC Berkeley College of Engineering are mobilizing to assist in the COVID-19, or the novel coronavirus, relief effort.

Various members of the college are working on projects related to several health aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects include finding ways to decontaminate N95 masks for reuse, converting sleep apnea machines to ventilators and finding ways to remotely control ventilators, in addition to other research.
One team is working with N95Decon, a multi-university research organization, to evaluate existing research and design systems to safely decontaminate masks.

“As these are crisis conditions, decontamination is an emergency practice intended to reduce the risks caused by the shortage of N95s,” said Samantha Grist, a campus postdoctoral fellow in bioengineering and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences, in an email.

According to Grist, decontamination would not mean the masks are completely free from posing a risk of infection, rather, the masks would pose a reduced risk.

She also said the best practice is to use new masks as decontamination does not solve the shortage.

“The methods we have been assessing from a scientific perspective unfortunately cannot and do not replace the need for new N95s, as these masks were designed for single-use.” Grist
LIVE: Updates on the COVID-19 situation in Berkeley
Here's what we know about the city of Berkeley and UC Berkeley's campus response to COVID-19, more colloquially known as coronavirus.

The Daily Californian

Former UC Berkeley student dies 7 years after devastating drug overdose
John Gibson, a former UC Berkeley student and Cloyne Court co-op resident, sustained irreversible brain damage from a near-fatal drug overdose in 2010.

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