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.

DOFFING

Proper doffing can reduce N95 fit. In one study the fit factor was observed to drop with each don/doff, and after five dons was consistently below the OSHA standard of 100.1

- If using a new N95, label with a soft-tipped permanent marker:
  - First initial and last name
  - Transfer Station location code
- If using a decontaminated N95:
  - Retrieve N95 from your spot in the CLEANED section
  - Inspect for damage or elongated straps and dispose of damaged N95 respirators
  - Add a tally mark on the N95 to indicate another decontamination cycle has been performed

Doff PPE according to institution guidelines
- Perform a user seal check3,4
- Perform hand hygiene before doffing further PPE

DOFFING

Improper doffing has been shown to expose the wearer to contamination risk. Proper doffing must accompany decontamination.

- Doff other PPE according to institution guidelines
- For N95 doffing:
  - At Transfer Station, obtain a breathable bag labeled with first initial, last name, and Transfer Station location code
  - Put on clean gloves
  - Remove N95 following CDC guidelines2,4
    - Only hold straps, do not touch front of N95 when doffing
    - Do not touch or allow potentially contaminated materials (such as N95 straps) to touch the inside of the N956
  - Inspect N95; dispose of it if damaged, soiled, or unlabeled
  - Place N95 into breathable bag, then place bag into assigned spot in the DIRTY section
  - Perform hand hygiene before doffing any further PPE

REFERENCES


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[Image: CDC user seal check with clean gloves]

Place both hands over the respirator, take a quick breath in to check whether the respirator seals tightly to the face. If you feel leakage, there is not a proper seal.

[Image: CDC N95 doffing with clean gloves]

DO NOT TOUCH the front of a used respirator! It may be contaminated.

[Image: Labeled N95 FFRs]

Different hospitals have chosen to label either the N95 facepiece or strap.5 The effect of labeling on N95 integrity or decontamination is unknown.

[Image: CDC N95 doffing with clean gloves]

Remove by pulling the bottom strap over back of head, followed by top strap, without touching the respirator.
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.

**COVID N95 DECON & REUSE**

**SAVE FOR DECON**
- No soil
- Nosepiece intact
- Straps intact
- No tears
- No deformation

**DISCARD**
- Soiling
- Deformation
- Broken Strap
- Tearing
- Nosepiece Detachment
- Nosepiece Fracture

**DECON OR DISPOSE?**