

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-19 N95 DECON & REUSE



# CAUTION WHEN REUSING

## PROMISING METHODS

Use of humid heat, UV-C, and hydrogen peroxide vapor as decontamination methods have been supported in the literature. For data and cautions specific to these reuse methods, visit: [www.n95decon.org/publications](http://www.n95decon.org/publications)

- Humid heat
- Hydrogen peroxide vapor
- UV-C radiation

## UNSUITABLE METHODS

Data indicates these methods significantly compromise N95 filtration efficiency or do not sufficiently inactivate biological contaminants. Do not employ for N95 decontamination.

- ✗ Soapy water | Soaking in soapy water has been shown to degrade filtration of multiple N95 models.<sup>1</sup>
- ✗ Alcohol | Application of alcohols such as isopropanol or ethanol has been shown to degrade the filtration efficiency of at least one N95 model.<sup>1,2</sup>  
Products to avoid include:
  - Liquid disinfectants that contain alcohol as an ingredient
  - Alcohol-based hand sanitizers
  - Alcohol-containing disinfectant wipes
- ✗ Bleach Immersion | Immersion in bleach-containing solutions has been shown to degrade N95 filtration efficiency.<sup>2</sup> However, wiping 3 times with a fresh bleach-containing wipe (0.9% hypochlorite) has been shown NOT to cause damage to multiple N95 models, and can decontaminate for at least one model pathogen.<sup>3</sup>  
Bleach residue has health risks, especially for asthmatic or sensitized people.<sup>4</sup> >18hr off-gassing in a fume hood has been shown to reduce residue.<sup>5</sup>  
Products to avoid include:
  - Bleach-based liquid disinfectants
- ✗ Overnight storage | SARS-CoV-2 has been shown to remain active on surfaces for 3 or more days, indicating that overnight storage at room temperature does not sufficiently decontaminate N95s.<sup>6,7</sup>

## SUPPORTING RESEARCH

[1] Viscusi et al., 2007; [2] Lin et al., 2017; [3] Heimbuch et al., 2014; [4] Viscusi et al., 2009; [5] Salter et al., 2010; [6] van Doremalen, et al., 2020; [7] Chin et al., 2020

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