N95 RESPIRATOR REUSE GUIDELINES

While N95 respirators are more available now than at the start of the pandemic, they still are not abundant and should be conserved to ensure their availability to healthcare workers. One strategy to conserve N95 respirators is to save it inside of a paper bag or other container where it can air dry. (Do not place the N95 respirator inside of a Ziploc bag and seal it as it will create moisture and won’t dry).

Before Use

Step 1:
Mark all of your N95 respirators with your name (first initial and full last name on the side of the N95 respirator. Example: J. Doe).

Step 2:
Mark each of the N95 respirators 1 through 5 (the first N95 respirator is marked 1, the next 2, and then 3, 4 and 5 until all N95 respirators have a number).

Step 3:
Mark the 5 paper bags also 1 to 5.

After Use

NEVER SPRAY YOUR N95 RESPIRATOR WITH ETHANOL, ISOPROPANOL OR ANY OTHER ALCOHOL OR CHLORINE BASED CLEANERS. ALCOHOL AND CHLORINE WILL INTERFERE WITH THE N95 RESPIRATOR PERFORMANCE.

After use, place the N95 respirator that you just wore that is marked #1 in the paper bag #1. Each day, wear the next number N95 respirator (e.g. #2 and place it in the #2 bag after use). Do this each day until all five N95 respirators have been worn. Continue this rotation for up to five weeks, inspecting the N95 before each re-use. If any of the following occur, discard the N95:

- Contamination with blood, respiratory secretions or other bodily fluids
- Damaged, misshapen, or hard to breathe through
- No longer seals well to face, even with adjustment

N95 Ordering Information

N95s must be ordered through the COVID Stockroom in Sciquest. These orders will come to EHS for approval. If someone else is placing the order on your behalf, your name should be listed in the COMMENT field to expedite the order.

Questions? Contact EHS at ehs@yale.edu or 203-785-3550.