EHS PROCEDURE FOR SANITIZING AND REUSING N95 RESPIRATORS

Due to a national shortage of N95 respirators, EHS is asking some campus users to use the below procedure to conserve their N95 respirators. By following this procedure, the N95 respirator is decontaminated after it is used and then held inside a paper bag or other container where it can air-dry. (Do not place the mask inside of a zip lock bag and seal it as it will create moisture and won’t dry).

Only follow this procedure when instructed to by EHS. Some campus users are using other procedures to acquire and reprocess N95 respirators.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus will not survive on the fiber surface of the N95 respirator beyond three days. The disinfectant provides added protection. After three days, Mask #1 will be free of SARS-CoV-2 and will also have been decontaminated by the disinfectant spray.

Before Use

Step 1:
Mark all your masks with your name (First initial and full last name on the side of the mask. Example: J. Doe)

Step 2:
Mark each of the masks 1 through 3

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

After Use

Step 1:
Remove mask by handling the straps only.

Step 2:
Lightly spray all surfaces of the mask with approved disinfectant and place in designated paper bag. Allow to air-dry.

Disinfectants with at least 0.5% Hydrogen Peroxide are suitable for mask decontamination. You can also spray each used mask with Oxivir spray, which is a product that is an 0.5% hydrogen peroxide solution.

NEVER SPRAY YOUR MASK WITH ETHANOL, ISOPROPANOL OR OTHER ALCOHOL OR CHLORINE-BASED CLEANERS, AS THESE WILL INTERFERE WITH THE MASK PERFORMANCE.

Step 3:
After spraying, place the mask that you just wore in its designated bag. Do this each day until all three masks have been worn.

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