To all staff:

In an effort to conserve our respiratory protection supplies and equipment during the COVID-19 outbreak, ANMC is adopting a procedure of limited reuse of N95 respirators and PAPR hoods. This change in practice is effective immediately.

**Guidelines for Safely Reusing N95 respirators**:

CDC has made the following recommendations to provide practical advice so that N95 respirators are discarded before they become a significant risk for contact transmission or their functionality is reduced.

**Donning Considerations:**

* Practice strict hand hygiene.
* Utilize proper PPE donning technique, including physical inspection and performing a face seal check.
* Minimize unnecessary contact with the N95 respirator surface.
* Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when donning a used N95 respirator and performing a user seal check. Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortably on your face with a good seal.
* Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the respirator (if necessary for comfort or to maintain fit).

**Limiting Cross-Contamination:**

* Do not share N95 respirators between users.
* Do not reuse N95 respirator for multiple patients, unless infected with the same organism.
* Consider wearing a cleanable face shield over the N95 respirator to reduce surface contamination of the N95 respirator.
* Consider having patient wear a procedure mask, when feasible, while HCW is in the room to reduce surface contamination of the HCW’s N95 respirator.

**Doffing/Storage Considerations:**

* Avoid touching the inside of the respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, perform hand hygiene as described above.
* Hang used respirators in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store respirators so that they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.

**Indications for Discard:**

* Discard the N95 respirator once it has been donned the maximum number of five (5) times.
  + When feasible, extend the use of N95 respirator by wearing for extended amount of time, and only doffing for hygienic concerns (e.g., the respirator was discarded because it became contaminated) or practical considerations (e.g., need to use the restroom, meal breaks, etc.).
* Discard any respirator that is obviously damaged (e.g., straps are too stretched out to afford good seal), saturated, or becomes hard to breathe through.
* Discard N95 respirators following close contact with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions (e.g., Primary Varicella or *C. diff* infection).
* Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.
* Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures (e.g., Bronchial Lavage).
* Discard N95 respirators after use for a COVID-19 patient, or other highly infectious disease

**Guidelines for Safely Reusing PAPR Hoods**:

**Donning Considerations:**

* Practice strict hand hygiene.
* Utilize proper PPE donning technique, including physical inspection of the hood for any rips, tears, or other damage.

**Limiting Cross-Contamination:**

* Do not share PAPR hoods between users.
* Disinfect PAPR hood using a hospital approved, EPA registered product following the manufacturer’s contact time between uses.

**Doffing/Storage Considerations:**

* Store disinfected PAPR hood on ISO cart in between shifts.

**Indications for Discard:**

* Discard PAPR hood once Airborne Isolation Precautions have been discontinued.

Written: 2/28/20

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_

References:

CDC. Recommended Guidance for Extended use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings. Online: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>.