



Emergency Decontamination of Compatible N95 or N95-Equivalent Respirators

Instructions for Healthcare Personnel

Health Canada has issued an authorization under the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices for Use in Relation to COVID-19 for the emergency use of Ecolab's Bioquell Technology (hereafter referred to as the 'Bioquell System') in decontaminating compatible N95 or N95-equivalent Respirators ('compatible N95 respirators'), for reuse by healthcare personnel. Healthcare personnel should follow these instructions, as well as procedures at their healthcare facility, to prepare compatible N95 respirators for decontamination by the Bioquell System.



- ▲ Due to incompatibility, the Bioquell system is not authorized for use with respirators that contain cellulose-based or paper materials
- ▲ All compatible N95 respirators that will be decontaminated with the Bioquell System must be free of visible damage and visual soil/contamination (e.g. blood, dried sputum, makeup, soil, bodily fluids)
- ▲ Compatible N95 Respirators that are visually soiled or damaged should not be collected for decontamination and must be discarded by healthcare providers
- ▲ Compatible N95 respirators should be discarded after 20 decontamination cycles
- ▲ Any compatible N95 respirator whose traceability was lost or number of decontamination cycles not able to be identified should be discarded
- ▲ Decontaminated N95 Respirators are not sterile

N95 Respirator Marking and Collection

Each hospital should determine, institute and oversee their best method for collecting masks. The following steps offer insights to help avoid potential product mix-up or additional exposure risk.

1. Create a collection station at the point of generation (i.e. hospital floor/unit)
2. Each station should have a bag or plastic sealed container provided by the healthcare facility to collect compatible N95 respirators. NOTE: Bags or plastic sealed containers are for compatible N95 respirators only. Do not throw personal protective equipment, paper towels, or waste in the collection bag.
3. With a permanent marker, healthcare personnel should label their own individual compatible N95 respirators (note: permanent marker can fade with repeated decontaminations - periodic reapplication may be necessary. Alternatively, implement a permanently affixed laminated tag to the rear strap of the respirator).
 - a. Externally label the following:
 - i. A unique identifier or code for each individual mask as provided by the facility
 - ii. Additional identifiers designated by the organization serving as a location identifier to correspond to a specific location/floor/unit within the site
 - b. Internally label the following: Individual user's name
4. You should follow all instructions provided by your facility about PPE when collecting respirators
 - a. As respirators are presented for decontamination and after a cycle, a record for each respirator should be created or updated.
 - b. The unique identifier provided in step 3 above should be connected to each cycle in order to effectively trace the number of cycles each respirator has received.