To provide guidance to AHS/Covenant Health MDR staff on the proper handling and transportation of contaminated N95 respirator through acute care facility.

To provide guidance to AHS/Covenant Health MDR staff on the appropriate PPE* required while handling and transporting contaminated N95 respirator through acute care facility.

NOTE: EMERGENT reprocessing of single use devices or PPE will only occur if supplies are depleted and urgently needed by frontline staff to provide safe patient care.

This procedure applies to all AHS/Covenant Health physicians and healthcare workers, employees, members of the medical, dental, podiatry, and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of AHS.

Alberta Health Services (AHS)/Covenant Health regional policy for Sterilization and High-Level Disinfection of Medical Devices and Equipment sets high standards for the proper Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization of reusable equipment and devices used in the provision of patient/client care. Departments responsible for Cleaning, Disinfection, or Sterilization shall establish procedures and a quality control program, ensure that staff are adequately trained and supervised, and ensure that equipment and devices used for Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization are appropriately maintained.

Guidelines/Procedure:

To ensure N95 Respirator Collection buckets are decontaminated before reuse.

1. MDR staff shall wear appropriate PPE for task.
2. After all N95 respirators are removed from the N95 respirator Collection bucket, bucket and lid shall be sent to decontamination.
3. N95 Respirator Collection bucket and lid shall be reprocessed through the washer/disinfector or cart washer in a manner that promotes drainage and drying.
4. If washer/disinfector is not available, N95 Respirator Collection bucket and lids will be manually cleaned.
5. Any carts used to transport N95 Respirator Collection buckets shall be reprocessed as per facility procedure.
6. Once clean, N95 Respirator Collection buckets and lids will be returned to holding area for distribution back to units.

*Appropriate PPE – gowns, masks, face shield/eye protection and gloves