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

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

To provide guidance to AHS/Covenant Health MDR staff on how to place N95 Respirators into containers/trays or wire racks to ensure appropriate heat and air flow during the sanitation process.

**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 respirators are transferred in a safe manner to maintain the integrity of the mask to create an environment in which thermal sanitation can occur.

1. MDR staff shall perform hand hygiene.
2. Don appropriate PPE* as directed by AHS/Covenant Health.
3. Gently open the N95 respirator Collection bucket and place the lid away from main work space to avoid contact with contents.
4. Decant each N95 respirator and visually inspect for damage or soil such as:
   a. Compromised elastic straps;
   b. Make-up;
   c. Lipstick/lip gloss;
   d. Hair;
   e. Mask deformity or tears.
   
   Discard the N95 respirators if any of these are present.
5. For the 1870+ N95 respirators; visually inspect, then grasp sides of respirator close to the elastics and pull tight. This will close the N95 respirators for ease in placing into peel pouch.
6. Discard all N95 respirators that are not 1870+.

*Appropriate PPE – gowns, masks, face shield/eye protection and gloves
### GUIDELINES FOR TRANSFERRING N95 RESPIRATORS INTO CONTAINER/TRAYS/WIRE RACKS FOR SANITATION

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**EMERGENT PRESERVATION STRATEGY / COVID19**

7. While one person is holding the respirator by its edges, the second person will open either a:
   - a. SteriKing SS5 (200 x 350 mm) self-seal pouch;
   - Or,
   - b. SteriKing PP4 (140 x 75 x 250) sterilization bag, fold over open edge and seal with sterilization tape.

Chemical Indicators are not required as this is only THERMAL SANITATION, not sterilization.

8. The person holding the N95 respirators will slip mask into bag.

9. The person holding the sterilization bag/peel pouch will seal bag either with the self-adhesive or with sterilization tape.

10. Place into container, tray or wire rack in a method that promotes heat and moisture circulation.

11. Doff PPE and perform hand hygiene.

12. Transfer container, tray or wire rack to the sterilization area.

13. Clean all work surfaces with a disinfect wipe.

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