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.

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:

Contaminated but visually clean N95 respirators will be collected by units throughout the acute care facility.

Units will have buckets outside patient care rooms where doffing occurs for frontline staff to place used N95 respirators. At specified times, or when ¾ full, designated unit personnel will place lids on buckets and deliver to dirty utility room.

If the lid is not secured on an N95 respirator collection bucket that is placed within a dirty utility room, then it should NOT be removed by MDR staff.

MDR staff will be responsible in transporting the N95 respirator collection bucket with secured lid to the dedicated area within Medical Device Reprocessing.

1. At designated intervals, MDR shall collect contaminated N95 respirators using a one way work flow, starting at the top of the building and working down.
2. Only covered or enclosed carts shall be used.
3. For card access on unit, MDR staff shall have their ID on them at all times.
4. Upon immediate arrival to each unit, MDR staff shall perform hand hygiene.
5. MDR staff shall perform hand hygiene prior to, donning appropriate PPE*, as directed by AHS/Covenant Health.
6. MDR staff shall locate Dirty Utility Room and transfer buckets secured with lids to covered/enclosed cart.
7. MDR staff shall ensure that transport cart is covered/doors closed and appropriate signage before leaving dirty utility room.
8. MDR staff shall doff PPE and perform hand hygiene before leaving dirty utility room.
9. MDR staff shall perform hand hygiene when leaving unit.
10. When cart is full MDR staff shall deliver to the MDR dedicated area.
11. If required MDR staff shall retrieve another cart to finish collecting closed N95 Respirator Collection bucket with lid.

*Appropriate PPE; Gown, mask, face shield/eye protection and gloves.
12. MDR staff shall perform hand hygiene after completing task.

13. Carts will be reprocessed as per facility procedure.

*Appropriate PPE: Gown, mask, face shield/eye protection and gloves.