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 patient care safely.

This procedure applies to all AHS/Covenant Health 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 that N95 respirators are sanitized in a manner that promotes air, heat and moisture to penetrate all surfaces. Ensure that all Biological testing has been performed prior, in sterilizer.

1. Place container/tray or wire racks onto sterilization cart.
2. Send transportation cart to decontamination for reprocessing.
3. Record number of N95 respirators being processed on Sterilization record or in SPM in comments.
4. Place a load label on each N95 respirator peel pouch and or bag.
5. Push cart into sterilizer.
6. Ensure all load labels are placed on sterilization documents and printouts.
7. Start sterilizer in a specialized load.
   
   Gravity cycle – 121 °C / 250°F for 30 minute exposure with 1 minute dry time.
8. When cycle is complete, open door slightly and let cart and respirators cool for 5 minutes.
9. Remove cart from sterilizer and cool to room temperature.