Preservation strategy
Thermal Sanitation Of N95 Respirators (1870+)
Thermal Sanitation

N95 respirators, surgical and procedure (face masks) are examples of personal protective equipment that are used to protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

N95 respirators will be reprocessed using steam achieving Thermal Sanitized parameters.

Thermal Sanitization involves the use of hot water or steam for a specified temperature and contact time.

It is important the respirators are handled minimally during the process.

Designated areas should be within MDR but not in the Assembly/Case Cart area.
Frontline staff check

- When doffing, frontline staff will remove respirator in a manner that protects themselves and maintain the integrity of the respirator.
- Using a mirror, frontline staff will check the exterior of the respirator for: Integrity and if visibly soiled.
- Frontline staff will dispose of respirator appropriately if any of the above is obvious.
- Frontline staff will place the respirator into the provided N95 respirator collection bucket located outside isolation room.
- N95 respirator collection bucket will be labelled as respirator for Thermal Sanitation.
N95 Respirator Collection Bucket

- Clean N95 respirator collection bucket will be taken to the Unit’s dirty utility rooms for pick up.
- MDR will pick up Unit-based sealed sanitized N95 respirator collection bucket and transport them to the designated MDR area.
- MDR designated area staff will receive respirator in sealed N95 respirator collection bucket.
- MDR will wipe exterior surfaces of N95 respirator collection bucket and transport it to the designated assembly area.
MDR Check

- MDR Decontamination staff shall wear appropriate PPE for task and per department policy.
- In designated area, buckets will be placed onto a disinfected surface.
- MDR staff will then open transport N95 respirator collection bucket, remove respirator one at a time and place into a sterilization bag/peel pouch being held open by the second person. Second person will then seal the sterilization bag/pouch and then place into container/tray/wire basket.
- When container/tray/wire basket is full, MDR staff will send to the sterilization area and process through Steam Sterilization.
- N95 respirator collection bucket will be sent to decontamination to be processed through the cart washer, washer/disinfector or manually cleaned.
- Respirator work surface will be wiped down with disinfectant wipe to prepare for next batch of respirator.
Thermal Sanitation

- Container/tray/wire basket will be placed on appropriate sterilizer cart.
- Load labels will be placed onto each peel pouch/sterilization bag.
- Sterilizer cart will be pushed into designated sterilizer.
- Sterilization door will be closed and latched.
- Sterilizer will be started on preprogrammed sterilization cycle.
  - Gravity cycle 121°C/ 250°F – 30 minute sterilization with 1 minute dry time.
- Staff will record on Sterilization record or in SPM in comments.
- After cycle complete remove sterilizer cart from sterilizer and cool to room temperature.
Distribution

- After appropriate cooling times, container/tray/wire basket will be transferred into a holding container and labelled “SANITIZED N95 respirator (1870+)– HOLD FOR USE” and the UNIT #.
- MDR staff take labelled holding container to specified holding area.

- **MDR staff will receive appropriate training for all tasks.**
Thank you

Stay Healthy