

Process for distributing and reprocessing of the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items: N95 respirator masks | blue and yellow face masks

Providers/APPs may drop off masks for reprocessing and obtain necessary masks and brown bags from a distribution hub. Hub locations include the George Auditorium and the Anderson ED which will be accessible 24/7 and the COOP Surgical Clinic from 8AM–4PM Monday–Friday starting March 27th.

Nurses' masks and sterilizer bags will be distributed on their unit by Materials

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY THOSE WHO WILL BE ADMINISTERING OR INVOLVED WITH AEROSOL GENERATING PROCEDURES WILL BE ISSUED AN N95 RESPIRATOR MASK.

Intact masks will be used for multiple days per Lifespan masking guidelines and will be *disinfected* in the following manner:

1. Upon arrival at a distribution hub, used masks will be placed in a **sterilizer bag**.
2. The person returning the mask will document using an industrial Sharpie: name, date, and department or unit.
3. If a mask has been worn and has broken and/or missing straps, add “straps” to the label.
4. If a mask has NOT been worn, but has broken or missing straps, place in a secure **sterilizer bag** and label as “Unused + straps” using an industrial Sharpie.
5. **Sterilizer bag** containing mask for reprocessing will be placed in collection bins in distribution hubs.
6. Collections will be retrieved twice daily and held in the Sterile Processing Department (SPD) “dirty” location for disinfection.
7. Masks will be batch disinfected in SPD.
8. **Sterilizer bags** containing *disinfected* masks will be returned to the location designated on the **sterilizer bag** the following day. Masks turned in by 6PM will be available by 6AM following day.

These recommendations have been approved by Lifespan Infection Control and Sterile Processing and are consistent with CDC recommendations. This process has been adapted to support the extreme shortage of PPE during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.



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