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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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June 2, 2020

PIN 20-20-ASC

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*
PAMELA DICKFOSS
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **GUIDANCE FOR DECONTAMINATION AND REUSE OF N95
FILTERING FACEPIECE RESPIRATORS**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 20-20-ASC provides guidance to Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees for the handling of used N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators (FFRs) so they can be decontaminated and reused as respirator supplies are depleted during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Specifically, it provides instructions on how to sign-up for the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)[™] and how to collect, properly package, and ship the used N95 FFRs to Battelle for decontamination.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [guidance](#) on the decontamination and reuse of N95 FFRs as a crisis capacity strategy on March 31, 2020. Although there are currently no manufacturer authorized methods for FFRs decontamination prior to reuse, Battelle CCDS[™], a vapor phase hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) (VPHP) system, received [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) (from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 29, 2020 for decontamination of N95 respirators. N95 respirators containing cellulose-based materials are **not** compatible with decontamination by the Battelle Decontamination System. The State of California is working with Battelle to deploy their FDA emergency use authorized decontamination systems in California.

Note: ASC licensees should continue to monitor the [FDA website](#) to determine if other EUAs have been issued.

Sign-up Process

ASC licensees are encouraged to participate in the N95 decontamination program. For information about how the N95 decontamination system works, refer to the [Battelle N95 Critical Care Decontamination System Informational Packet](#). Please note, in order to use the Battelle CCDS™, ASC facilities must have a [signed service agreement](#) (PDF) with Battelle. Once Battelle has received a signed agreement, Battelle will issue a three-digit site code ID to the ASC facility.

For information on the sign-up process, refer to the [Battelle CCDS Process flowchart](#) (PDF).

Below is guidance for how to collect, properly package, and ship the used N95 FFRs to Battelle for decontamination. Even if your ASC facility does not plan to reuse N95 respirators, we would recommend you collect used N95 respirators so that the State can decontaminate the respirators and allocate them to areas who have a need for such a resource.

On-Site Collection

1. Your ASC facility should create an N95 respirator collection station at the point of generation (i.e. building/floor/wing/unit).
 - Any N95 or N95-equivalent respirator that does not contain cellulose-based materials is compatible with the Battelle Decontamination System.
 - All compatible N95 respirators must be free of any visual soiling or contamination (e.g. blood, bodily fluids, makeup).
 - Compatible N95 respirators that are visually soiled or damaged should not be collected for decontamination. If they are submitted to Battelle for decontamination, they will be disposed of and not returned.
2. Each station should have a bag provided by the facility to collect compatible N95 respirators.
 - Bags are for compatible N95 respirators only. Do not put other personal protective equipment (such as gloves), paper towels, or waste in the collection bag.
3. With a permanent marker, each compatible N95 respirator should be labeled with a three-digit site code and a 2-digit location identifier (as shown below). For ASC facilities, the three-digit code is issued by Battelle after they receive a signed agreement from the ASC facility (contact Battelle if you have not yet received your

three-digit site code). Your ASC facility may designate the location identifier to correspond to a specific location/building/floor/wing/unit within the facility site.

Site Code ID **Site Location ID**
(Assigned by Battelle POC) (Assigned by ASC Facility)

Preparation for Shipment or Pick-up:

1. Bags containing the contaminated compatible N95 respirators to be decontaminated ("primary collection bag") should be closed.
2. Place the primary collection bag into another bag ("secondary collection bag") (provided by the ASC facility), which is then closed.
3. Decontaminate the secondary collection bag with alcohol or other suitable decontaminant.
4. Place the decontaminated bags into a rigid, closed box (supplied by the ASC facility) clearly labeled with a biohazard symbol, and tape the box securely shut.
5. Label the outside of the box with the 3-digit site code and 2-digit location identifier.

Facility Shipping Information

Cardinal Health will provide weekly pick-up and return services to ASC facilities located within a 2-hour driving radius of a Battelle site free of charge. ASC facilities can sign up for services with Cardinal Health when signing their service agreement with Battelle, or send an inquiry to gogreen@sustainabletechnologies.com if they have already signed their agreement but did not coordinate with Cardinal Health.

For all other ASC facilities not within a 2-hour driving radius of a Battelle site, UPS will provide courier services free of charge. Battelle shipments should be sent to your local Battelle site:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Burbank Site Shipping Address
2910 Clybourn Avenue
Burbank, CA 91505
UPS Account Code: 5193R8 | 2. Fremont Site Shipping Address:
41320 Boyce Road
Fremont, CA 94538
UPS Account Code: 6539E8 |
|---|--|



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Refer to the [Battelle N95 Critical Care Decontamination System Informational Packet \(PDF\)](#) for full instructions on how to ship to a local Battelle site.

Reuse Information

Following decontamination, each ASC facility will be provided the decontaminated N95 respirators they submitted. Each ASC facility should inspect each returned decontaminated N95 respirator for visible damage or soiling. If visually damaged or soiled, decontaminated N95 respirators should be discarded and not reused.

Additionally, ASC facility staff should be reminded of the following:

- Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching or adjusting the N95 respirator.
- Avoid touching the inside of the N95 respirator.
- Use a pair of clean (non-sterile) gloves when donning and performing a user seal check.
- Visually inspect the N95 respirator to determine if its integrity has been compromised.
- Check that components such as the straps, nose bridge, and nose foam material did not degrade, which can affect the quality of the fit, and seal.
- If the integrity of any part of the N95 respirator is compromised, or if a successful [user seal check](#) cannot be performed, discard the N95 respirator.

Battelle Memorial Institute has developed a [fact sheet](#) for ASC facility staff who use the decontaminated N95 respirators.

Resources on Decontaminating N95 FFRs

- [CDC Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#)
- [FDA Emergency Authorization of Battelle Decontamination System](#) (PDF)
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization](#) website
- [How to Perform a User Seal Check with an N95 Respirator](#) video
- [Battelle Decontamination System Fact Sheet for Healthcare Personnel](#) (PDF)
- [Battelle CCDS Process](#) (PDF)
- [Battelle Service Agreement](#) (PDF)
- [Battelle N95 Critical Care Decontamination System Informational Packet](#) (PDF)
- [Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System Safety Response](#) (PDF)
- [Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System Frequently Asked Questions](#) (PDF)

Additional Resources

- [California Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response](#)
- [California Department of Social Services](#)
- [California Department of Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Local County Health Departments](#)

If you have any questions about infection prevention and control of COVID-19 or questions about this PIN, please contact your local [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).