

**From:** Bruno, Jane <[JBruno@Lifespan.org](mailto:JBruno@Lifespan.org)>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 11:13 AM

**To:** HybridGDL

**Subject:** A Message from John B. Murphy, MD and Leonard A. Mermel, DO, Regarding N95 Mask Use

## N95 Use when Caring for Patients Infected with COVID-19

May 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The effort to secure and maintain an adequate supply of N95 respirators has been a subject of intense focus over the past months. Due to your help with conserving and preserving our stockpile, and through the tireless efforts of colleagues in supply chain, facilities, and more, our supplies have reached a more secure level. With the added ability to reprocess N95 respirators up to 20 times using the state's Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System, we now feel able to revisit current use practices.

We continue to require all staff to wear an N95 respirator (or CAPR if available) and other PPE for aerosol-generating procedures. Additionally, we understand there may be situations that require longer and closer contact with an unmasked patient, in which a health care worker may feel more comfortable wearing an N95 respirator. While not required, we are now able to provide an N95 for these situations.

We also want to provide N95 respirators for rapid response teams on units caring for COVID-19 infected patients, and to any staff member caring for COVID-19-infected patients, regardless of the patient care they are providing.

Note that the same N95 respirator can be worn when caring for more than one patient. Thus, you can keep the N95 on your face after leaving the room of a patient with COVID-19 infection and going into another room of a COVID-19 infected patient.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of our patients. Please know that the safety of all our health care professionals, employees and patients is at the forefront of everything we do.

Sincerely,

John B. Murphy, MD, Executive Vice President, Physician Affairs

Leonard A. Mermel, DO, Department of Epidemiology and Infection Control