



# Disposable PPE Reuse and Extended Use Guideline

This guide summarizes the requirements for the proper maintenance, storage, extended use and limited reuse of disposable personal protective equipment (PPE). This was developed for research, animal, and operations personnel seeking conserve PPE. When using PPE, the following must be adhered to:


- Wear PPE when exposure to hazardous materials cannot be controlled in any other way;
- Remove PPE prior to leaving the work area;
- PPE must not be shared between workers (dedicated PPE per individual); and
- **Always wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or apply an alcohol-based disinfectant before and after donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) PPE.**

## Mouth and Respiratory Protection


Type/Use	Reuse/Extended Use	Storage
<b>Procedure/Surgical Mask/ Dust Mask</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects the face from splashes, droplets, and spit</li> <li>• Does not provide respiratory protection from small particles, such as viruses</li> <li>• Before and after use, inspect for any contamination, tears, rips, holes, elastic/straps ripped/stretched, and other damage</li> <li>• Ensure mouth and nose are covered</li> <li>• No fit testing is required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuse and extended use of disposable masks is appropriate, unless contaminated or degraded</li> <li>• In circumstances where there is a high risk of the mask becoming contaminated, workers can wear a face shield over the mask</li> <li>• When donning and doffing, hold mask by the straps to prevent contamination</li> <li>• Avoid touching the inside of the mask</li> <li>• Ensure hands are clean or use a pair of clean gloves when donning a used mask. Always clean hands after donning a used mask.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks can be stored for reuse in a clean, , breathable, labeled container or bag, or hung by the straps in a dust-free, low traffic location until the next use</li> <li>• Store masks so that they do not touch each other</li> <li>• If using a reusable container or bag for storage, ensure it is disposed of or disinfected regularly</li> </ul>
<b>Respirator (e.g. N95) (Disposable)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit testing is required before first use and biennially afterwards to ensure respiratory protection</li> <li>• Before and after use, inspect for any contamination, tears, rips, holes, elastic/straps ripped/stretched, and other damage</li> <li>• Always perform a seal check to ensure respiratory protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reuse of disposable N95 is limited to five uses (as per CDC guidance),</b> unless contaminated or degraded</li> <li>• In circumstances where there is a high risk of the respirator becoming contaminated, wear a face shield or a surgical mask over the respirator</li> <li>• Discard respirator if it becomes difficult to breathe through</li> <li>• <b>Do not</b> reuse respirators if working with high-risk hazardous materials (e.g. cytotoxic drugs, risk group 3 pathogens)</li> <li>• When donning and doffing, hold mask by the straps/ties to prevent contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks can be stored for reuse in a clean, breathable, labeled container or bag, or hung by the straps in a dust-free low, traffic location until the next use</li> <li>• Store respirators so that they do not touch each other</li> <li>• If using a reusable container or bag for storage, ensure it is disposed of or disinfected regularly</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid touching the inside of the respirator</li> <li>Ensure hands are clean or use a pair of clean gloves when donning a used respirator. Always clean hands after donning a used respirator.</li> </ul>	
Refer to <a href="#">Appendix A</a> for steps on how to don (put on) and doff (take off) N95 respirators or masks for reuse.		

## Eye and Face Protection

Type/Use	Reuse/Extended Use	Storage
<b>Safety Glasses, Goggles, and Face Shields (Disposable)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection of the eyes and face, and can extend the life of masks and respirators</li> <li>Clean with soap and water or spray with a chemical disinfectant, as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposable safety glasses, goggles, and face shields can be reused and worn for extended periods of time</li> <li>After use, decontaminate with appropriate disinfectant on the inside and outside of the safety glasses, face shield, goggles, and straps</li> <li>Do not set safety glasses on surfaces, except for in designated storage areas</li> <li>Ensure gloves are removed before eye/face protection is doffed</li> <li>Ensure hands are clean and straps do not become contaminated when doffing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before and after use, inspect for any contamination, scratches to lenses/shield, bent or twisted frames, ripped/stretched headbands, and other damage</li> <li>Store for reuse in dust-free, dedicated area</li> <li>After use, wash with soap and water and allow to dry before placing in a storage container, bag, or dedicated area</li> </ul>


## Hand Protection

Type/Use	Reuse /Extended Use	Storage
<b>Disposable Gloves (e.g. nitrile, vinyl)</b>  <p><u>Note:</u> Latex gloves are not recommended as they can cause allergy sensitization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protects hands when working with certain hazardous materials</li> <li>Inspect gloves for holes, cracks, and other damage prior to each use</li> <li>Remove all rings prior to putting on gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean, non-contaminated gloves can be reused and worn extended periods of time if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>they are clean,</li> <li>not contaminated, and</li> <li>are not degrading (swelling, cracking, shrinking, or discolouration).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reuse of disposable gloves is most feasible if thicker gloves (&gt;6 mil) are used</li> <li>Can decontaminate gloves with an appropriate disinfectant or alcohol-based hand sanitizer between activities</li> <li>Grossly contaminated gloves must be disposed of in a hazardous waste container</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfect gloves before removal and storage</li> <li>Ensure gloves are dry before they are stored</li> <li>Store in a clean, labeled, container or bag</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change gloves if they develop holes, cracks, or any other damage</li> <li>• Avoid touching face while wearing</li> <li>• Avoid touching unnecessary surfaces while wearing</li> <li>• Ensure gloves are removed/replaced or sanitized between activities to prevent contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used, but non-contaminated gloves should be disposed of in the garbage</li> <li>• Monitor gloves routinely for signs of wear (including tears and holes) and replace as required</li> <li>• If doubled-gloved, remove and dispose of outer glove as required and sanitize inner glove with an appropriate disinfectant or alcohol-based hand sanitizer</li> </ul>	
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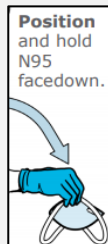

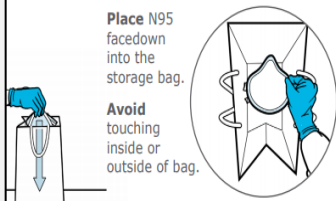


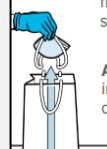

## Body Protection

Type/Use	Reuse/ Extended Use	Storage
<p><b>Lab Coats, Coveralls, Head Covers, Aprons, Sleeves, Gowns, Boot Covers (Disposable)</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects the worker from contaminating their clothes/shoes/hair with certain hazardous materials</li> <li>• Should be changed between rooms/zones to prevent accidental contamination of other areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean, non-contaminated lab coats, coveralls, head covers, aprons, sleeves, gowns, and boot covers can be reused and worn extended periods of time if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ they are clean,</li> <li>○ not contaminated, and</li> <li>○ are not degrading</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Frequently inspect for tears, missing buttons/clasps, cuffs that have lost their elasticity, and contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>For aprons, lab coats and coveralls</u>, hang on designated hook (one per hook) or in a clean, dust-free storage space</li> <li>• <u>For sleeves, head covers, and boot covers</u>, label and store in <b>separate</b> clean, breathable bags for reuse</li> <li>• Store items so that they do not touch each other</li> </ul>

For questions or assistance, please contact Safety Resources at 306-966-4675 or [safetyresources@usask.ca](mailto:safetyresources@usask.ca).



## Appendix A: N95 Respirator/Mask Reuse Procedure

Donning (Putting On)						
<b>Step 1</b> <b>Put on N95,</b> ensuring proper seal. <b>Ensure straps</b> are not crossing. 	<b>Step 2</b> <b>Place hands</b> over the front of the N95. <b>Breathe</b> an easy deep breath in and out. If you <b>feel</b> air escape the edges, <b>refit</b> and <b>repeat</b> . 	<b>Step 3</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 	<b>Step 4</b> <b>Put on face shield.</b> 	<b>Step 5</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 	<b>Step 6</b> <b>Do not touch face</b> or re-adjust N95 or face shield 	
Doffing (Taking Off)						
<b>Step 1</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 	<b>Step 2</b> <b>Pinch bottom strap</b> and <b>pull</b> far over head. <b>Do not</b> let straps touch your face. 	<b>Step 3</b> <b>Pinch top strap</b> and <b>pull</b> far over head. <b>Do not</b> let straps touch your face as you <b>remove</b> the N95. 	<b>Step 4</b> <b>Position</b> and hold N95 facedown. 	<b>Step 5</b> <b>Place storage bag</b> on clean, flat surface. 	<b>Step 6</b> <b>Place N95</b> facedown into the storage bag. <b>Avoid touching</b> inside or outside of bag. 	<b>Step 7</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 
Retrieval						
<b>Step 1</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 	<b>Step 2</b> <b>Remove N95</b> from the storage bag. <b>Avoid touching</b> inside or outside of bag. 	<b>Step 3</b> <b>Put on N95,</b> ensuring proper seal. <b>Ensure straps</b> are not crossing. 	<b>Step 4</b> <b>Sanitize gloves.</b> 