COVID-19 PPE Update: N-95 Mask Instructions

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Spectrum Health contact: Aly Dondzila

N-95 respirators are personal protective equipment used to protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

Please watch the N-95 instructional video: https://vimeo.com/401326591

During the COVID-19 pandemic, use the following guidelines for the use of N-95 respirators:

- Wear for multiple patient encounters.
- Wear for multiple shifts, until it becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, fails the seal check, or becomes difficult to breathe through.
- Use up to 5 shifts. Place a hash mark on mask following every shift used. Discard after 5th shift.
- Do not touch the outside of your mask or pull your mask up and down over your chin.
- Conduct seal check every time donning the N-95. If seal check fails, discard and obtain new one, or wear a positive air-purifying respirator (PAPR)

IMPORTANT - Mask Conservation:
When mask needs to be removed, perform hand hygiene and place your mask in a safe storage area (example: paper bag, hooks, or paper box) labeled with your name, badge number, date, and shift time. Additional cleaning steps to be shared in the coming days.

Support: If team members have questions about their N-95 mask fit, Hot Zone Bosses can advise. If questions remain, Ken Shawl can be reached kenneth.shawl@spectrumhealth.org for a virtual visit.

Additional Information:

- Supply chain vendors and community donations: Our N-95 supply may look a little different due to donations but will provide the same level of protection.
- Wearing masks over masks: Currently, we do not recommend wearing a standard isolation mask of a cloth mask over an N-95 mask. This practice would decrease our supply of PPE necessary to care for our patients.
- Face Shield: If supply available, pair N-95 mask with a face shield for additional protection.