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The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a severe global shortage of N95 respirator masks. To prepare, research and clinical teams across the country have adopted ways to disinfect N95 masks for reuse. Techniques and protocols include: ultraviolet light, aerosolized hydrogen peroxide, and a heat process. Spectrum Health’s Infection Prevention team, Supply Chain Services, Sterile Processing Department and Environmental Services have prepared a process using these methods to disinfect team member masks.

Current N95 disinfection process units: 5MHC, 9C, 2S, HDVCH and BW EDs, medical center ORs and endoscopy. Additional units at the medical center are being identified for disinfection process implementation, and we are working with Spectrum Health Blodgett, United and Zeeland Hospitals.

For patient-facing team members working during the COVID-19 pandemic, here is information to ensure you are informed and prepared for the disinfection process in your location and area:

1. **Read Tip Sheet “COVID-19 N95 Disinfection Process”**: This standard work details steps and information required to ensure proper disinfection and return of your N95 mask.

2. **Additional Units for N95 Disinfection Process**: We are completing installation of another disinfection room at the medical center to support the process for additional units. Once a unit is identified, we will meet with and educate the unit leadership. Serious Contagious Disease Unit Instructors and RNs will round on units, post-N95 disinfection process implementation, to field questions and to reinforce the Tip Sheet/Standard Work.

3. **Additional Locations for N95 Disinfection Process**: The heat disinfection process is live at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital, and our regional sites will be set up for all processes by early next week.

**Benefits of N95 disinfection efforts include:**

- **Ensuring clinical team member safety.** Knowledge is power! We can safely reuse N95 masks to protect our team members during this unprecedented time. According to Duke Health (2020), vaporized hydrogen peroxide permeates the masks to kill germs, including viruses, without harming the material.

- **Optimizing N95 respiratory mask inventory.** Currently, N95 mask usage has increased from hundreds to about 1,200 N95 masks per day. With appropriate preservation of N95 mask inventory, we feel prepared for the COVID-19 surge given global demand is very high, and shipments are uncertain.

With questions, email covid19@spectrumhealth.org