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 developed 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.

For patient-facing team members working during the COVID-19 pandemic, follow these steps to ensure preparedness for N95 disinfection process:

1. **Review all N-95 reference materials and standard work documents:** These can be found on the [https://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19/provider-resources](https://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19/provider-resources) under "PPE"

2. **Reference “COVID-19 Disinfection Process Tip Sheet”:** This document details all steps for disinfection process.

3. **Identify drop-off and pick-up zones:** Locate designated drop-off and pick-up locations on 5 MHC, 9 Center and 2 South. Drop off N-95 mask at the end of your shift and pick up at the start of your following shift in the same location.

**Benefits of N-95 disinfection efforts include**

- **Ensuring clinical team member safety.** Knowledge is power! We can safely reuse N-95 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.** With appropriate preservation of N-95 mask inventory, we feel prepared for the COVID-19 surge and currently use about 1,200 N-95 masks per day. While we have more on order, global demand is very high, and shipments are uncertain.

With questions, email: covid19@spectrumhealth.org

**References**

- [https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html)