

Protocol for the use of N95 Respirators and Masks

To eliminate confusion, the common paper masks worn by individuals will be referred to as “masks”. The N95 Respirator Mask will be referred to as “Respirators”. This document provides guidance as to when and how to utilize a Respirator.



Respirator



Mask

Respirators will be delivered to each program and stored in a designated area that has controlled access. A designated few staff members will have access to the respirators to give to staff members when appropriate.

Appropriate Utilization of a Respirator

Respirators are **only** to be worn by **staff** members tending to patients that have both a fever and cough. The patients will be provided a **mask**.

Respirators are only to be used when we have a patient that is experiencing a fever, which is a temp of 100 or higher, AND cough. These patients shall be provided a mask and escorted to the designated isolation room. The staff person attending to the patient should wear a respirator and follow the below guidance for applying and removing.

Please refer to Inpatient/Detox Process Map and Outpatient Screening Process Map for further guidance.

How to Apply, Remove and Store a Respirator

Respirators are to be assigned to an individual staff person, as appropriate. Not all staff members will receive a respirator. Staff that are assigned to attend to patients with fever and cough will be provided a respirator. Per CDC Guidance, masks will be used by the same individual more than once.

Upon receiving a respirator, the staff person shall place their initials on the outside of the band of the respirator.

A Gallon size zip lock bag will be provided for the staff person to store their respirator between use. The staff person's name should be clearly written on the bag. The bags are to be returned to the designated area to prevent damage.

Staff should wash hands for 20 second before and after they put the respirator on and off. Place clean gloves on when you put the respirator on, a new pair of clean gloves on before the removing the respirator.

Avoid touching and adjusting the respirator once applied.

Respirators should only be discarded if there is clear patient respiratory or nasal secretions on it (i.e. pt. sneezes or coughs directly on you). Respirator should be placed into the Ziploc bag, sealed and discarded in this event.

These respirators are not be used for individuals with facial hair. Federal guidance suggests people wearing masks should be clean-shaven and have no facial hair. We are asking everyone with facial hair to consider that if you are in a situation to use a mask your safety may be affected by your decision regarding facial hair.

The availability of the respirators is extremely limited. Please use them with discretion and take proper care of them to maximize use. We continue our daily efforts to procure more PPE.

DISCLAIMER: Helio Health has developed this document to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Helio Health prepared this document based on the information available to Helio Health at the time of its creation. Helio Health is sharing this document in an effort to assist other providers in responding to the pandemic. Other providers who utilize this resource are not relieved of their own duty to conduct an assessment and evaluation of each specific service recipient to make medical or clinical decisions. Providers should also conduct their own due diligence to ensure that there have not been further updates to the publicly available information regarding decision-making relating to COVID-19. Helio Health is not responsible for how other providers interpret or apply this document. We recommend providers consult the following resources in your decision-making: CDC, NYS Department of Health, NYS Office of Mental Health, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports and your local health department.