

# Reprocessing N95 Respirators Using STERIS or ASP<sup>1</sup>

## Sterile Processing Department (SPD) Staff

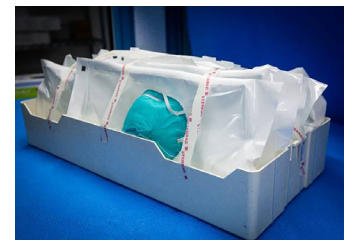
### REPROCESSING WITH STERIS

1. Ten (10) respirators is the maximum quantity of respirators per cycle. Five (5) respirators on each shelf.
  - a. No overlapping of peel packages.
2. Close door, sterilize utilizing the **NON-LUMEN CYCLE**.
3. Allow respirators a minimum of two hours to aerate (off-gas) in SPD post-sterilization before it is worn again by the owner.
4. **Compatible N95 respirators may be decontaminated a maximum of 10 times.**



### REPROCESSING WITH ASP

1. Place individually pouched compatible N95 respirators in a STERRAD Sterilizer; each cycle can decontaminate 10 pouches per sterilizer load.
2. A specific orientation of the respirator in the sterilization pouch or pouches in the sterilizer is not required.
3. Pouches should not overlap or cover other pouches.
4. A Type 1 indicator for vaporized hydrogen peroxide (for example, a chemical indicator or chemical indicator tape) may be used to monitor the cycle. The indicators may be placed on the pouch, inside a pouch or within the chamber to provide an indicator that sterilant has been delivered. One indicator per cycle is recommended.
5. Follow STERRAD Sterilizer User's Guide instructions on how to initiate a cycle and verify successful cycle completion.
6. Upon completion of the cycle, the compatible N95 respirators should be aerated in an opened pouch for 1 hour after which they are ready for use.
7. **Compatible N95 respirators may be decontaminated a maximum of 2 times.**



## REPROCESSING DOCUMENTATION

1. Load labels are not required for N95 packaged respirators to minimize unnecessary contact or potential contamination. *These items are not considered sterile.*
2. A biological indicator (B.I.) is not necessary to monitor the cycle as this process is not intended for sterilization.
3. Load records should be completed to include operator, sterilizer, and load number.
  - a. Quantity of “N95 respirators” in load (Max 10).
  - b. Parameters of sterilization (Sterilizer load receipt).
  - c. Technician processing the load.

## RE-DISTRIBUTION

1. Each facility will determine designated personnel utilized to return reprocessed respirators back to the unit identified on the package. Unit drop off location shall be determined by local facility.
2. Clinicians and providers will retrieve their respirator on the unit they left it.
3. Courier to pick up for offsite areas.
4. Utilize facility designated transport system for clean supplies.

- <sup>1</sup> N95 respirators containing cellulose or cellulose-based material cannot be processed using Steris or ASP technology.

**Questions?** Contact your local perioperative leader or Brian Dawson, System Vice President of Perioperative Services at [Brian.Dawson@DignityHealth.org](mailto:Brian.Dawson@DignityHealth.org)