

## Tip Sheet on Reprocessing N95 Masks Using STERIS Steam Decontamination Cycle



### Sterile Processing Department (SPD) Staff

#### COLLECTION:

1. Masks should be contained in a bag (paper or plastic) and the bag contained within a rigid containment transport device.
2. Transport containment should be identified as “biohazard”.
3. Each facility will designate staff utilized to transport contained masks to SPD Decontamination Room.

#### PACKAGING:

1. Packaging shall occur in a designated dry area in decontamination or soiled utility room.
2. Don PPE including gown, gloves, mask, face shield, head covering, shoe covering.
3. Masks with visible soil (including makeup), damage, or breakdown shall be discarded.
4. Use a Sharpie brand permanent marker to make a hash mark or dot in the same location of each style mask. Each mask can be processed a maximum 10 cycles. Minimize handling of the mask during this marking process.
  - a. Mark shall ideally be placed on elastic strap or bottom of the mask. (See Image-4a)
    - a. Identification mark must be different than the mark used for other types of Decontamination. i.e. if using a hash mark for H2O2, use and “x” for Steam.
    - b. Decontamination methods are not interchangeable. Once you start a method, that mask must stay with that method throughout it’s processing cycle.
  - b. This mark is to track the number of cycles processed.
    - a. Discard after 10 cycles.
5. Don clean gloves or utilize a 2<sup>nd</sup> technician with clean gloves.
6. Use a 7.5” x 13” peel pouch (preferably self seal) or larger and place the mask in the pouch.
  - a. Do not need to use an Indicator/Integrator
7. Seal the peel package with the cone “outer side” of mask facing the clear plastic side of the peel package.



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### TRANSPORT to STERILIZER:

1. Place the sealed peel packages into a sterilization tray maintaining proper alignment/placement of paper/plastic pouches
2. See chart below for # of masks per cycle based on the Sterilizer model

<b>Sterilizer Size/Models</b>	<b>Number of Trays</b>	<b>Number of Pouched Respirators</b>
26"x37.5"x36" AMSCO Century 36" AMSCO 400 36H, 36SL, 36CH, 36CSL	9	108
26"x37.5"x48" AMSCO Century 48" AMSCO 400 48H, 48SL, 48CH, 48CSL	12	144
26"x37.5"x60" AMSCO Century 60" AMSCO 400 60H, 60SL, 60CH, 60CSL	15	180

3. Place the trays of masks in a closed containment system (bin or cart).
4. A technician wearing clean PPE shall then transport the bin/cart directly to the Steam Sterilizer which has the door already open.
5. Transfer the trays of peel packaged masks from containment device directly onto Sterilizer cart.
6. Push cart into Sterilizer-close the door
  - a. Be sure to clean/disinfect the door if touched with soiled gloves
7. Return closed containment system to decontamination and clean and disinfect it for reuse.
8. Doff PPE and perform proper hand hygiene.

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#### STERILIZATION:

1. Do not exceed the maximum number of masks for your Sterilizer model
2. Lock door, sterilize utilizing the **Decontamination Cycle**.
3. If the Sterilizer chamber is too hot or too cold, it will prompt you to run a Warm/Cool cycle
4. **Do not need to run a Biological; This is a Decontamination Cycle and does not require**
5. Verification of a completed cycle is based on verification of Cycle parameters listed below
  - a. **Temperature**            **Between 145.4 and 163.4 Degrees F**
  - b. **Pressure**                **Between 10-24 inHg**
  - c. **Expose Time**            **30 minutes**

#### REPROCESSING DOCUMENTATION

1. Load labels are not required for N95 packaged masks 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 masks" in load.
  - 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 masks 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 mask on the unit they left it.
3. Courier to pick up for offsite areas.
4. Utilize facility designated transport system for clean supplies.

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### Important Info

1. Only the masks listed below have been approved for Steam Decontamination
  - a. 3M 1860
  - b. 3M 1860s
  - c. 3M 1804
2. Only the Sterilizers listed below can be used for N95 Decontamination
  - a. AMSCO 400 Series Medium Steam
  - b. Century Medium Steam
3. You must call Steris (800-333-8828) to create a Service Call for the Technician to add the cycle to the sterilizer
  - a. Have your SN available to verify your Sterilizer is compatible with this process
4. When the need for N95 reprocessing is no longer needed, the Service Tech will come and remove the Decontamination cycle from the sterilizer
5. Masks must go back to the original user
6. The mask must be discarded if
  - a. Soiled or damaged
  - b. Cannot identify original user