

# How To Extend the Life of Respiratory Protection

## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

	Recommended Best Practice	Minimum Acceptable Protection	Last Resort
<b>When Respirator Supplies Are Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a surgical mask OVER the N95 to extend its use. Replace the surgical mask between patients.</li> <li>• Use emergency rule to allow for an air purifying respirator (APR)/powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) canister interchangeability.</li> <li>• Use masks beyond their expiration date.*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reusing your filtering facepiece respirator (FFR). Store in non-plastic bag between uses.</li> <li>• Consider reusing your APR/PAPR canisters — wipe outside down (do not spray) with disinfectant and store in humidity-free environment. <b>DO NOT SPRAY FILTER MEDIA</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize protection by exposure risk:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt; 6' from patient = no mask</li> <li>• 3'-6' = surgical mask</li> <li>• &lt; 3' = N95 or greater</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>When Respirator Supplies Are Depleted</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decontaminate FFPs and reuse (do not share FFPs and APR/PAPR filters between people – maintain FFPs for individuals).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microwave** for 2 minutes at 1100W (dry heat disinfection)</li> <li>• Soak in bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water) for 5 minutes, followed by water rinse, and air dry (use methods to increase air flow during drying, if possible).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use surgical face masks with priority given to those meeting ASTM F2100 Level 3 (then Level 2, Level 1, surgical molded utility masks and, finally utility masks).</li> <li>• Consider adding reusable and cleanable face shields to minimize direct exposure with droplets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider homemade respiratory products using common fabric materials (note that the protection level will be minimal, at best).</li> <li>• Requires the use of a reusable and cleanable face shield to minimize interaction with droplets.</li> </ul>

\* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/release-stockpiled-N95.htm>

\*\* Do not use your normal cooking microwave. Purchase a new one specific for these needs.

For details on each approach, see: <https://emergencyresponsetips.com/papers>.



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