

## Decontamination Protocol for Reusable Elastomeric Respirators

This protocol should be followed at the end of each work shift to decontaminate any reusable elastomeric respirators used during the shift.

If time permits, clean with protocol below in between patients; otherwise follow the quick decontamination protocol using disinfectant wipes to clean respirators between patients.

- Equipment necessary
  - 1 pair nitrile gloves, 1 mask with eye shield, and 1 liquid resistant gown
  - 1 bottle of mild dishwashing liquid such as dawn
  - 1 soft bristle brush
  - 1 plastic medication cups or other graduated container to measure ml and/or ounces
  - 1 2 gallon bucket
  - 2 chux pads
  - Hospital air and hose if available, or clean soft cloth
- TO CLEAN RESPIRATOR AT THE END OF THE DAY, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:
  - Place unopened bag containing the disinfected respirator mask near sink by instructions
  - On the other side of the sink, place opened Chux pad . Place the second opened Chux by the clean bin.
  - Fill bucket with 1 gallon (4 quarts) of comfortably warm (not hot) water.
  - Perform hand hygiene and then don protective equipment—gloves, gown, and mask with eye shield
  - Pour 15 ccs (1/2 oz.) of DISHWASHING LIQUID in the bucket of warm water.
  - Open biohazard bag, remove respirator and place it on the top of the bag.
  - Remove the filters by unscrewing or turning them to the left.
  - Wipe the filters with disinfectant wipes and place them in the clean bin/clean chux.
  - Without removing the straps, immerse the mask in the soapy water.
  - Clean mask with the brush and soapy water-gently on the inside of the mask to avoid damaging the valves. Then rinse them well in running water.
  - Rinse mask in running water and place them on the second Chux.
  - Wipe faucet handles with chemical wipes
  - Discard gloves and perform hand hygiene

- Dry mask and splashguards with hospital air hose if available; if not available, dry with clean cloth or allow to air dry.
- When dry, reassemble mask and filter cartridges