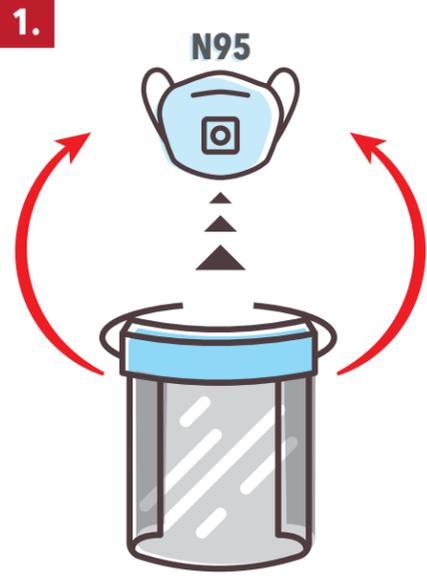


PROTECT



Reusable covers may be ideal

These can include full-face shields that protect the N95 mask and the providers' eyes. Surgical masks may be in short supply.



Hand-sewn masks may be utilized to cover N95 masks

'Sewing Armies' have been formed in many communities where community members sew these protective covers.

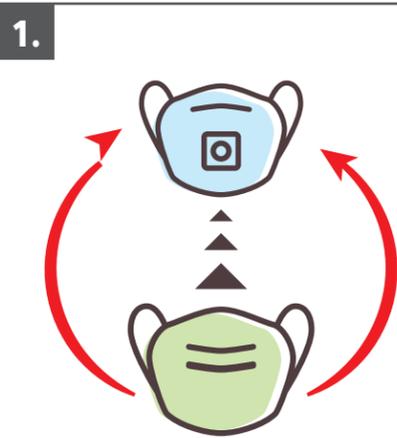


These mask covers should be cleaned regularly

Cloth mask covers should be cleaned after each shift or earlier if they become soiled by washing them in hot water and dried using high heat. Hard covers (e.g. facemasks) should be wiped down after each patient encounter with a 70% alcohol solution.

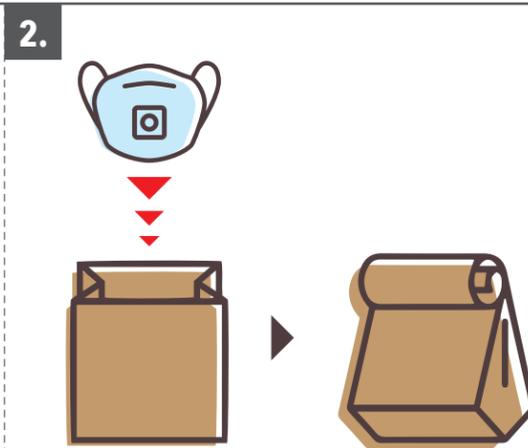
NOTE: These strategies are not intended to replace N95 mask as they are likely associated with higher rates of infection if used in isolation. These methods are intended to protect the N95 mask from becoming soiled.

PRESERVE



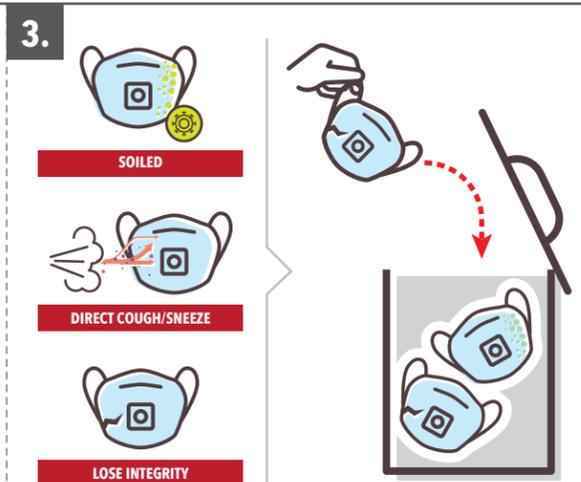
Place surgical mask or other cover over N95

This may include a face shield or hand-sewn mask to cover the N95 & protect it from soilage.



When not in use at work, N95 masks should

be kept in a paper bag and protected from mechanical trauma.

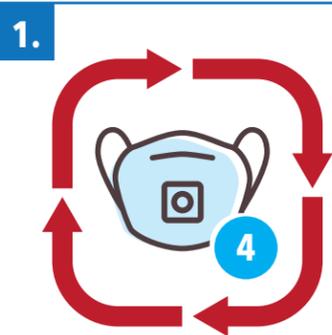


Only discard mask when:

- visibly soiled
- directly sneezed or coughed on
- integrity is lost (eg: visible rips and tears or perceptibly too easy to breathe through)

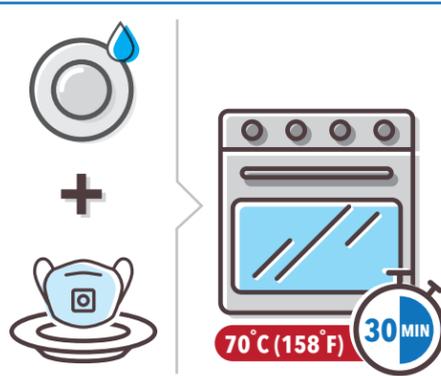
USACS Clinicians may have to change masks by hospital protocols or other guidance. Providers are encouraged to retain any used (but not soiled or otherwise compromised) N95 masks in a paper bag in a safe place.

RECYCLE



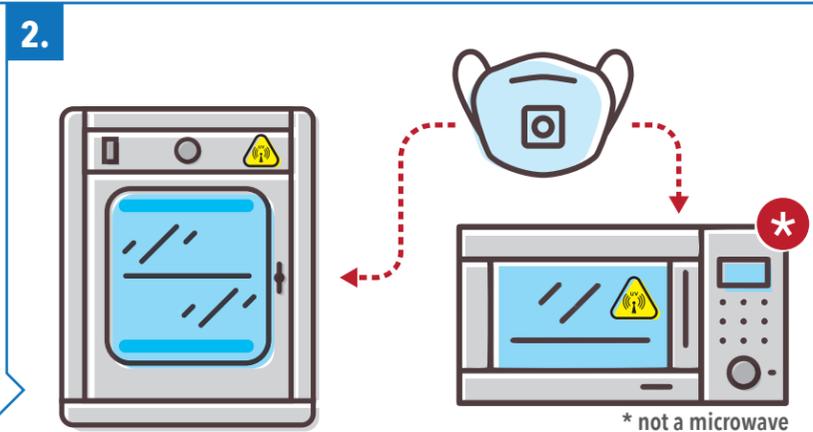
Mask Relay

Have 4 masks, and number them from 1-4. Use a different mask each successive day and **let the mask dry out for at least 4 days (96 hours) before reusing.**



Bake-Don't Shake

Bake in a low temperature oven at 70C (158F) on a ceramic plate with a dish of water in the oven for 30 minutes. **It is critical that you keep a dish of water in the oven, to maintain the electrostatic charge, and that you keep the temperature as close to 70C (158F) as possible.** Use a high quality cooking thermometer. Colder and it won't kill the virus; hotter and it can damage the mask.



OR UV Sterilizing Devices

Contact your local OR and ask them for permission to use their UV sterilizer for recycling protective gear, and how long their devices need to deliver a dose of 10J/cm²

UV Crosslinker Oven

Used in genetics labs, they are widely available in secondary markets for \$200-400, and \$2,000 new. Set to deliver 10J/cm²

Contact bedollaj@usacs.com if you go this route.

FAQs:

Q: What about UV "sanitizers" or hand-held devices?

A: UV sanitizers and handheld devices are highly variable in terms of the amount and the wavelength they deliver. Any particular model may either not sterilize or may alternately be too powerful and destroy the integrity of the mask.

Q: What about ozone?

A: There is not enough data to recommend the use of ozone.

Q: What about UV light from the sun?

A: If none of the other options works for you, put your mask in direct sunlight for one hour on each side. The UV light from sunlight does kill viruses.

Q: What about bleach or alcohol?

A: They damage the mask.

Q: What about microwaving the mask?

A: Microwaving can damage, and even melt, the mask.