Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings

[https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Fwww.cdc.gov-252Fniosh-252Ftopics-252Fhcwcontrols-252Frecommendedguidanceextuse.html-26data-3D02-257C01-257CStevenson-2DOrtiz.Judy-2540dol.gov-257C50fe54a46c424e9e117d08d7d0f75fb3-257C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca-257C0-257C0-257C637207633189870390-26sdata-3DB2JpeeyP-252FjJZdUUVigZxVSKQ-252F7v7DQLib-252BKxvxoobbM-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAw%26c%3D3NBXXUKukgVIjVXwt0Rin6h0GAxIKZespWWvcJx4w9c%26r%3DOchfK5tsKw3s6pWrU7ax5cirThuZsNPpYMCpTkocJMQ%26m%3DPERlq9xDUCMIggvFnaw6_38NCGtdXih4nb9_y9Zv-Vk%26s%3DUN4ZBYysQ8Tkv8GVptdjv_a7mAHKFh_fC3vlLY_AT_8%26e%3D&data=02%7C01%7CStevenson-Ortiz.Judy%40dol.gov%7C6e684d346bfb425d5a0908d7d0fb7fd0%7C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca%7C0%7C0%7C637207650913512355&sdata=nOHAb%2FZP%2BsGVH17sORCY94uMAlQ0xHgQLs0Ts7gCdsE%3D&reserved=0)

Minimize the number of individuals who need to use respiratory protection through the preferential use of engineering and administrative controls;

Use alternatives to N95 respirators (e.g., other classes of filtering facepiece respirators, elastomeric half-mask and full facepiece air purifying respirators, powered air purifying respirators) where feasible;

Implement practices allowing extended use and/or limited reuse of N95 respirators, when acceptable; and

Prioritize the use of N95 respirators for those personnel at the highest risk of contracting or experiencing complications of infection.

It probably depends on what the N95 is used for. For COVID-19 there are the CDC recommendation. There’s studies being done on how, or if, N95s can be decontaminated. I’d watch for any information coming out in the future in that regards.

The discussion really has been related to healthcare. For construction and other industries I haven’t seen any information. But engineering and administrative controls should be looked at to see if a hazard can be controlled that eliminates or reduces the need for the respirators.

There hasn’t been any discussion on waiving respirator use when there is a hazard and it’s required or waiving OSHA requirements. That would just create a different kind of illness/injury….

I think it would be a good survey question to the industry on how they are addressing it.

Depending on the hazard maybe there might be some helpful information here:

[http://www.cpwrconstructionsolutions.org/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttp-253A-252F-252Fwww.cpwrconstructionsolutions.org-252F-26data-3D02-257C01-257CStevenson-2DOrtiz.Judy-2540dol.gov-257C50fe54a46c424e9e117d08d7d0f75fb3-257C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca-257C0-257C0-257C637207633189880380-26sdata-3DosT6tuLFF0gEzc6VMTMeaFErcLddUar8AgQLykOEWbg-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAw%26c%3D3NBXXUKukgVIjVXwt0Rin6h0GAxIKZespWWvcJx4w9c%26r%3DOchfK5tsKw3s6pWrU7ax5cirThuZsNPpYMCpTkocJMQ%26m%3DPERlq9xDUCMIggvFnaw6_38NCGtdXih4nb9_y9Zv-Vk%26s%3DFIl4THMIG411SRLRFTASn3gKfU6sT3IrjmzdFGXmz84%26e%3D&data=02%7C01%7CStevenson-Ortiz.Judy%40dol.gov%7C6e684d346bfb425d5a0908d7d0fb7fd0%7C75a6305472044e0c9126adab971d4aca%7C0%7C0%7C637207650913522345&sdata=Au2gvJq2R3pNV1ZFneBSS8gwL00IQUr%2FIyrlA2%2Fi5fU%3D&reserved=0)