Alternate Respirators
Use and Maintenance

Use an alternative to N95 respirators where feasible: half-face or full-face respirators with HEPA/HE filters or cartridges and powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs).

How to Clean, Sanitize and Disinfect
Half and Full-Face Respirators

- Respirators should only be worn when providing patient care or transporting patients that are either confirmed or suspected of Covid-19.
- Clean after each use. Nitrile or vinyl gloves should be worn during cleaning as well as other personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated.
- Inspect facepiece per the User Instructions to identify any damage or excessive wear. Repair or replace facepiece as necessary.
  - Ensure filter gaskets or seals are in good condition.
  - Remove exhalation valve and valve seat for signs of dirt, distortion, cracking or tearing.
  - Inspect lens for any damage that may impair performance or vision.
- Clean facepiece (excluding filters or cartridges) by immersing it in a warm cleaning solution, water temperature not to exceed 120 °F (49 °C), and scrub with soft brush until clean. Add neutral detergent if necessary. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils.
- Disinfect by soaking the facepiece according to the user instructions for the selected disinfectant, including usability, application and contact time.
- Rinse thoroughly with fresh warm water.
- Air dry in non-contaminated area.
- Inspect and reassemble respirator as described in the User Instructions.

General Use Tips

- Do not share tight fitting masks with other users.
- Perform a positive and negative fit check before use.
- Store in a clean, dry location that prevents contamination.
- Store in a breathable container or hang respirator in a designated area.
- Label the respirator with the user’s name.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after handling or touching a respirator.
- Avoid touching the inside of the respirator.

If you do not know how to perform a negative and positive fit check, type this link into your browser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5enXbWq5zs

Cartridge Care

For extended life and reuse of cartridges, remove cartridges and wipe down the exterior of the cartridge with alcohol wipes. Store cartridges in a sealed bag labeled with the uses name. Reuse cartridges until they are damaged, visibly contaminated, or difficult to breathe through.

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For more information on COVID-19 visit www.clemson.edu/research/safety