



# DONNING AND REMOVAL OF N95 RESPIRATOR

## Key Terms

N95 Respirator

Medical screening

Fit test

Donning of N95 respirator

Removal of N95 respirator

OSHA

NIOSH

## DONNING AND REMOVAL OF N95 RESPIRATOR

### INTRODUCTION:

Healthcare facilities present an environment where there is a risk for transmission of Tuberculosis through airborne infectious particulates. Respirators, such as the N-95, provide protection from airborne infectious particulates when properly fitted and worn. The most common respirator used is the disposable particulate type N95. The "N" stands for respirator filters that can be used when no oil is present in the contaminants.

### DEFINITION:

The "95" means that the product has been tested and certified by NIOSH (National institute for occupational safety and health) to have a filter efficiency level of 95% or greater against particulate aerosols.

### OSHA RESPIRATORY STANDARD

OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard requires that the employer have a written program that includes annual:

- **Medical screening** to determine if the employee is physically able to wear a respirator
- **Fit-test** to determine if the respirator fits properly on the employee's face.
- **Training** on the selection, use, storage, and limitations of the respirator used

### LIMITATIONS OF THE N95 RESPIRATOR:

- The N95 respirator has the ability to filter particles 1 micrometer with a filter efficiency of > 95%. If this respirator becomes wet, it is no longer effective and must be replaced.
- The N95 is not intended for protection from organic vapors, toxic gases, or toxic particulates.
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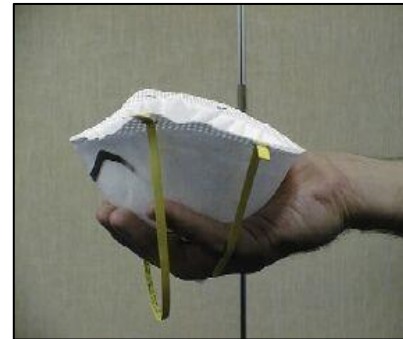
**INDICATIONS FOR N95 RESPIRATOR:**

A respirator is to be worn:

- When entering TB isolation rooms
- When patient is suspected of having TB
- While transferring the Patient to other unit, the patient should wear N95 respirator mask.
- While transferring the patient, all accompanying people (doctors, nurses etc) should wear N95 respirator mask / surgical mask.
- During procedures that generate airborne secretions such as sputum induction.

**PROCEDURE:****S.NO STEPS OF PROCEDURE****1. Donning the N95 Respirator**

- Cup the respirator in your hand with the nosepiece at the fingertips allowing the headbands to hang freely below hands.



Picture 1: Donning the N95 Respirator: Step One

- Position the respirator under your chin with the nosepiece up.



Picture 2 : Donning the N95 Respirator: Step Two

- Pull the top strap over your head so it rests high on the back of the head.



Picture 3: Donning the N95 Respirator: Step Three

- Pull the bottom strap over your head and position it around the neck below the ears.



Picture 4: Donning the N95 Respirator: Step Four

- **Face Fit Check:** The respirator seal should be checked before each use. To check fit, place both hands completely over the respirator and exhale. If air leaks around your nose, adjust the nosepiece as described in Step Five. If air leaks at respirator edges, adjust the straps back along the sides of your head. Recheck.



Picture 5 : Fit Check of the N95 Respirator

**Watch out**

N95 Mask is only effective when the seal around your nose and mouth is tight. If you cannot achieve proper fit, do not enter the isolation or treatment area. Consult your supervisor

**S.NO STEPS OF PROCEDURE****2. Removal of the N95 Respirator:**

- Cup the respirator in your hand to maintain the position on the face. Pull bottom strap over the head



Removal of the N95 Respirator: Step One

- Still holding the respirator in position, pull the top strap over the head.



Removal of the N95 Respirator: Step Two

- Remove the respirator from the face and discard



Removal of the N95 Respirator: Step Three



**Watch out**

**N95Mask cannot be worn by healthcare workers with facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the mask and face.**



#### **PATIENT FAMILY EDUCATION:**

Educate the patient and family regarding,

- the significance of N95 respirator for tuberculosis
- the need for isolation/precaution
- the main signs and symptoms of airborne infections (tuberculosis) such as fever, continuous cough, weight loss etc.,
- the preventive measures of airborne infections
- the donning and removal of N95 respirator.



