

# N95 Decontamination and Re-Use: FAQ's

 <b>Question:</b>	<b>Answer:</b>
<p>How do I start this process? I haven't received a brown bag. What should I put my used respirators in to send to decontamination unit for the first time?</p>	<p>Great Question! Your department may purchase large sized brown lunch bags for your unit/department/clinic to get started. Please be sure your name &amp; location are written on your brown bag. Your respirator also needs to be labeled appropriately.</p>
<p>I work on one of the inpatient units (or ancillary/support service areas. How do I get my brown bag to the decontamination unit?</p>	<p>Anyone can bring these to the decontamination unit. When you have a load of used respirators that are ready for decontamination, ask someone from your unit to run a load up.</p>
<p>I work on one of the inpatient floor (or ancillary service/support areas). When should my unit/department bring our used respirators up for decontamination unit?</p>	<p>You may bring your used respirators up for decontamination at any time. You may find it easiest to run a batch of used respirators, in their brown bags, at the end of each shift, or you may choose to bring them up more frequently throughout the day.</p>
<p>Where should I put the brown bags once delivered to the Decon. Unit?</p>	<p>Please place all brown bags with used respirators in the dirty storage area. Please document on the log sheet before leaving.</p>
<p>I work in one of the outpatient clinics/ICCs off site. How do I get my used respirator(s) to the decontamination unit for processing?</p>	<p>Each day a courier will come to pick up your site's batch of used respirators. Please ensure your brown bag has your name and site on it. Please ensure respirator is marked correctly. All brown bags need to be placed in the plastic tote to be sent for decontamination.</p>
<p>I work on an onsite ambulatory clinics. How do I get my used respirator to the decontamination unit for processing?</p>	<p>You may bring your used respirators up for decontamination at any time. You may find it easiest to bring used respirators, in their brown bags, at the end of the day. Please pick them up each morning, from the Decon Unit, prior to your clinic opening.</p>
<p>What time will the courier come to the <b>off campus sites</b> to pick up used and drop off clean respirators?</p>	<p>Ask your clinic manager what the designated times are for your site. (This will often occur after the clinic hours have ended. Clean masks</p>

	will be returned the next morning before the clinic opens.)
Do the brown bags and white bags need to be stored in a particular area on my unit/department?	Yes! Please designate a “dirty drop off” location AND “clean pick up” location for your unit/department/site. These need to be in separate areas.
I often work in multiple units. How will I get my respirators returned to me in the correct location?	Work with your home department to establish clean and dirty drop off locations to store your respirator bags. Staff may choose to have their decontaminated respirators returned to the area they last worked (or work most frequently). Ensure your brown bag is labeled with that location. Staff can choose to have their decontaminated respirators returned to the area they last worked. Ensure your brown bag is labeled with that location. You may also to designate your location as <b>FLOAT</b> in which case your clean, decontaminated respirators will be stored in the Float holding area on the Decontamination Unit. You can then pick your own white bag up from that area at the start of your next shift.
Where is the Decontamination Unit at Nebraska Medicine?	The Decon. Unit at Nebraska Medicine is located on the 7 <sup>th</sup> floor of University Tower in the old Adult Crisis Unit (across from biocontainment)
Where is the Decontamination Unit at Nebraska Medicine Bellevue?	The Decon Unit on Bellevue’s campus is located on the ground floor in the old fitness room. The “dirty” storage room is located in room 0H346. The “clean” storage is in room 0I228
How do I label my respirator?	Please label your respirator with your FIRST INITIAL, LAST NAME, DATE OF FIRST USE
Should I perform a fit test when I don a respirator that has undergone the decontamination process?	Yes! Each healthcare provider is responsible for ensuring the integrity of fit (no leaks) before re-use.

I have not received any education or instruction on the respirator decontamination and re-use process. Should I be participating in this new conservation approach?

Information on the UVGI decontamination process is available on the COVID web page. Please reach out to Katie Paladino at [kpaladino@nebraskamed.com](mailto:kpaladino@nebraskamed.com) for more information.