

FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL

ASP STERRAD® Sterilizers for Decontaminating Compatible N95 Respirators

April 14, 2020
IO313641

Coronavirus
Disease 2019
(COVID-19)

You have been given a **decontaminated N95 or N95-equivalent respirator** that has been decontaminated using a sterilization system **for single-user reuse by healthcare personnel in a healthcare setting** to help prevent exposure to pathogenic biologic airborne particulates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Fact Sheet informs you of the significant known and potential risks and benefits of the emergency use of decontaminated compatible N95 respirators. These compatible N95 respirators have been decontaminated using the one of three Advanced Sterilization Products STERRAD Sterilization System cycles: STERRAD 100S Short Cycle, STERRAD NX Standard Cycle, or STERRAD 100NX Express Cycle (hereafter referred to as “**decontaminated N95 respirators**” and “**ASP STERRAD Sterilization System**” throughout this Fact Sheet).

Decontaminated compatible N95 respirators that have been decontaminated using an ASP STERRAD Sterilization System are authorized for single-user reuse by healthcare personnel in a healthcare setting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether or not you use a respirator, always follow infection control measures: wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home if you may be sick.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Many patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). However, limited information is currently available to characterize the full spectrum of clinical illness associated with COVID-19. Based on what is known about the virus that causes COVID-19, signs and symptoms may appear any time from 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Based on preliminary data, the median incubation period is approximately 5 days, but may range 2-14 days.

Public health officials have identified cases of COVID-19 infection throughout the world which may pose risks for public health. Please check the CDC webpage for the most up to date information.

What do I need to know about the emergency use of decontaminated compatible N95 respirators?

- The ASP STERRAD Sterilization System has been authorized for emergency use to decontaminate compatible N95 respirators for single-user reuse by healthcare personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent exposure to pathogenic airborne particulates.
 - ✓ Compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators are those that are compatible with vaporized hydrogen peroxide (VH₂O₂) gas sterilization and can safely and effectively be processed two times after initial use without detrimentally impacting mask form, fit, or function.
 - ✓ Cellulose-based materials are incompatible with the ASP STERRAD hydrogen peroxide-based sterilization system.
- **Preparing compatible N95 respirators for decontamination:**
 - ✓ Place compatible N95 respirators after use into a compatible sterilization pouch identified for use in vaporized hydrogen peroxide, such as a Tyvek® pouch with STERRAD Chemical Indicator
 - ✓ Write name and/or other identifier using a permanent marker so the respirator may be returned after successful decontamination
 - ✓ Place a tick mark on respirator each time a respirator is prepared for decontamination
 - ✓ Post-decontamination, open the pouches and allow the decontaminated N95 respirators to aerate for one hour prior to usage
 - ✓ **Discard if decontaminated more than 2 times** or if visibly soiled or damaged
- **Use of decontaminated N95 respirators:**
 - ✓ Decontaminated N95 Respirators are not sterile.
 - ✓ Inspect respirators after each use prior to submission for decontamination
 - ✓ If decontaminated N95 respirators are soiled or damaged, they should be discarded
 - ✓ Cellulose-based materials are incompatible with the STERRAD Sterilization System
 - ✓ Report problems with decontaminated N95 respirators to your healthcare facility

It is strongly recommended to maintain chain of custody on the respirator to minimize the risk of cross-contamination

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- **Monitor healthcare personnel for signs and symptoms** of potential infection with SARS-CoV-2 or other respiratory infection for up to and including 14 days after last contact with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and related material, and promptly report such information to Advanced Sterilization Products.
- **Report damage or discoloration** observed upon receipt of the decontaminated compatible N95 respirators, and potential exposure of healthcare personnel from breaks in or other damage to or degradation of the decontaminated compatible N95 respirators.

Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for individuals suspected of having COVID-19 as outlined in the CDC webpages, including *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings, Infection Control, and FAQ about PPE*.

Current information on COVID-19 for healthcare personnel is available at CDC's webpage, *Information for Healthcare Professionals* (see links provided in "Where can I go for updates and more information" section).

What are the known and potential benefits and risks of using decontaminated N95 respirators?

Potential benefits include:

- May help prevent exposure to airborne pathogens, and therefore risk of infection or illness
- Extends the usability of compatible N95 respirators by allowing for decontamination and single-user reuse.
- Availability of N95 respirators are critical to healthcare workers in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19

Potential risks include:

- Failure of filtration efficiency
- Reduced breathability
- Strap failure and ineffective face-fit
- Reused respirators may not have been effectively decontaminated of SARS-CoV-2 or other pathogens

Overview of the ASP STERRAD Sterilizers for Decontaminating Compatible N95 FFR Respirators

The ASP STERRAD Sterilization Systems, specifically the STERRAD 100S, NX, and 100NX Sterilization Systems, must be operated in the STERRAD 100S Short, NX Standard, and 100NX Express Cycles, respectively, to decontaminate compatible N95 respirators that are contaminated or potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogenic microorganisms so that the respirators can be reused by HCP. **N95 or N95-equivalent respirators containing cellulose-based materials are not compatible with the ASP STERRAD Sterilization Systems.**

The STERRAD Sterilization System decontaminates utilizing hydrogen peroxide vapor. The vaporized hydrogen peroxide is introduced to allow perfusion of the hydrogen peroxide throughout the chamber, facilitating hydrogen peroxide contact with the surfaces to be sterilized.

The ASP STERRAD Sterilization System enables single-user reuse of compatible N95 respirators that would otherwise be disposed of after a single use. However, respirators that are visibly soiled must be discarded and not reused or decontaminated.

Report Adverse events, including problems with performance or results, to the Canada Vigilance Program at 1-866-235-3345 or hc.vigilance.sc@canada.ca

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What is an Authorization under an *Interim Order*?

Health Canada has made the emergency use of the ASP STERRAD Sterilizers to decontaminate compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators available under an emergency access mechanism called an Interim Order (IO). The IO is supported by Health Canada's declaration that circumstances exist to justify the emergency use of medical devices, including alternative products used as medical devices, due to insufficient supply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASP STERRAD Sterilizers for decontamination of compatible N95 respirators have been made available under an IO and have not undergone the same type of review as a licensed device. Health Canada may issue approval under an IO when certain criteria are met, which includes that there are no adequate, approved, available alternatives, and based on the totality of scientific evidence available, it is reasonable to believe that the ASP STERRAD Sterilizers may be effective at preventing healthcare personnel exposure to pathogenic airborne particulates during periods of insufficient respirator supply during the COVID-19 pandemic by decontaminating, for a maximum of 2 decontamination cycles per compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirator that are contaminated or potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 or other pathogenic microorganisms.

The IO for the ASP STERRAD Sterilizers is in effect for the duration of the COVID-19 declaration justifying emergency use of medical devices, unless terminated or revoked (after which the products may no longer be used for this purpose).

Where can I go for updates and more information?

CDC webpages:

General: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>

Healthcare Professionals:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>

Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Healthcare Settings:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

Infection Control:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/index.html>

FAQ on Personal Protective Equipment:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-use-faq.html>

FDA webpages:

General: www.fda.gov/novelcoronavirus

Emergency Use Authorizations:
<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations>

Health Canada webpages:

Interim order: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>