



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: April 17, 2020

From: Medical Operations Center, Emergency Operations Center – County of San Diego

Health Advisory Update # 12: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Collection and Preparation of N95 Respirators for Potential Decontamination and Reuse

Key Messages

- In preparation for a crisis care strategy, the state of California, in conjunction with California Department of Public Health (CDPH), are procuring Battelle Memorial Institutes' Decontamination System for decontamination of N95 respirators.
- CDPH's [All Facilities Letter \(AFL\) 20-36.1](#) provides guidance on how healthcare facilities can collect and prepare N95 respirators for potential decontamination using the Battelle system.
- Hospitals, healthcare centers, and other healthcare facilities who are NOT planning to reuse N95 respirators are still encouraged to collect and prepare N95 respirators for reuse in other settings after decontamination. Facilities conducting other methods of decontamination can continue their process or elect to use the state's process.
- Please refer to [CAHAN #10](#) for additional Personal Protective Equipment guidance.

Situation

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has listed [N95 decontamination and reuse](#) as a potential crisis care strategy and listed several different methods of decontamination.
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California are procuring several Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)TM units, a vapor phase hydrogen peroxide system, which received [emergency use authorization](#) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 29, 2020 for N95 respirator decontamination.
- CDPH has put out guidance in an [All Facilities Letter \(AFL\) 20-36.1](#) encouraging healthcare facilities to collect and prepare N95 respirators for re-use.
- Hospitals, healthcare centers, and other facilities that are NOT planning to reuse N95 respirators are still encouraged to collect and prepare N95 respirators for potential reuse in other settings.
- Please note that healthcare facilities currently conducting other methods of decontamination can choose to continue their current process or elect to use the state's process.
- Additional guidance will be released by CDPH regarding this process.
- Please refer to [CAHAN #10](#) for additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance.

Actions Requested

1. Healthcare Facilities Should Review CDPH Instructions in [AFL 20-36.1](#) to Collect and Prepare N95 Respirators for Potential Decontamination and Subsequent Re-use.

- ***A supply chain procedure will be developed for the collection of N95 respirators from healthcare facilities for the decontamination process and returned to each facility.***

General public inquiries about COVID-19 should be directed to [2-1-1 San Diego](#) or to the [County COVID-19 website](#). Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>

Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>