



N95 Respirator Reprocessing

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is implementing a strategy to reprocess N95 respirators during the COVID-19 pandemic as one of the many contingency plans the SHA is pursuing in the event that we are faced with a supply shortage of globally scarce N95 respirators.

Why?

- There is unprecedented global demand for PPE supplies. All efforts are being made to ensure that we continue to have a supply of N95 respirators.
- Reprocessed respirators are being sent to NIOSH-approved lab for testing to ensure they meet all requirements. Provided the respirators pass testing, they will be stockpiled and only used in a circumstance where new N95s or equivalent respirators are not available.
- A study showing successful use of the sterilization technique was recently published by [Duke University](#) in the U.S. and confirmed by researchers in Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

When?

- The SHA has begun to collect N95 respirators in Saskatoon and is currently implementing this process in facilities across the province.

What is being collected?

- The SHA is collecting non-grossly soiled, unbroken N95 respirators.
- We need your help to ensure this process is effective:
 - Collection bins will be set up for you to place used respirators.
 - Please ensure the respirators you are placing in the collection bins are not damaged by checking the following:
 - elastics are still in good condition;
 - that they do not have visible gross contaminants (including makeup);
 - that they have not been used in the preparation of cytotoxic drugs.
 - Please do not place any other objects into these bins as it will delay the process and increase the sorting time.

What do you need to know?

- The bins will be collected on a regular basis and reprocessed on site. In Saskatoon they will be transported to VIDO-InterVac.
- Your collective efforts to help ensure we are collecting as many respirators as possible is greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact:

- Kateri Singer at 306-766-2189 or at Kateri.singer@saskhealthauthority.ca

