

N95 Reprocessing Update

Situation:

COVID-19 virus impacted production and allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other emergency supplies globally.

Background:

YNHHS developed a process to internally decontaminate and re-sterilize N95 Respirators for potential re-use. N95s that have been used but not visibly damaged were collected at all Delivery Networks and reprocessed within our Regional Operating Center. YNHHS has reprocessed over 30,000 N95 respirators since inception of this program.

Assessment:

N95 Reprocessing collections have dropped off substantially since we have less Covid-19 patients and decrease use of N95s.

Recommendation:

As the decontamination process is very labor intensive (EVS, nursing, Central Sterile, Supply Chain, etc.), and the volumes have decreased so significantly, we have decided to put a pause on this process beginning 10/1/2020. We will continue to evaluate our N95 supply and COVID population, with the potential to bring the program back in the future, as needed. **Many thanks to all caregivers for supporting the very successful efforts to collect and reprocess N95 respirators.**