



Strategies for Extending the Use Life of Respiratory Protection During the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic (Quick Reaction Guide)

	Recommended Best Practice	Minimum Acceptable Protection	Last Resort
Phase 1 When Respirator Supplies are Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/R/P-100 filtering facepiece respirator (FFR) OR air purifying respirator (APR) or powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) with P100 canister Filters used once and replaced between patients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/R/P-95 filtering facepiece respirator APR or PAPR with chemical adsorption canister using a P100 pre-filter Interchange of filters and masks that are not certified together is not approved. 	Not Applicable
Phase 2 When Respirator Supplies are Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a medical mask OVER the N95 to extend its use. Replace the medical mask between patients. Utilize emergency rule to allow for APR/PAPR canister interchangeability Use masks beyond their “expiration date” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider reusing your FFR (store in non-plastic bag between uses) Consider reusing your APR/PAPR canisters (wipe (not spray) down with disinfectant and store in humidity-free environment) <p>DO NOT SPRAY FILTER MEDIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize protection by exposure risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 6’ from patient = no mask 3’-6’ = medical mask < 3’ = N95 or greater
Phase 3 When Respirator Supplies are Depleted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decontaminate FFPs and reuse (do not share FFPs and APR/PAPR filters between people – maintain individual issue) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microwave for 2 minutes at 1100W (dry heat disinfection) Soak in bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach for gallon water) for 10 minutes, followed by water rinse, and air dry (utilize methods to increase air flow during drying, if possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize medical/surgical face masks with priority given to those meeting ASTM F2100 Level 3 (then Level 2, Level 1, Surgical molded utility masks, and finally, utility masks) Consider adding reusable and cleanable faceshield to minimize direct exposure with droplets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider homemade respiratory products using common fabric materials (note that the protection level will be minimal, at best) Requires the use of a reusable and cleanable faceshield to minimize direct exposure with droplets

*For details on each approach, see: <https://emergencyresponsetips.com/papers>.