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Technology for the Decontamination and Reuse of N95 Respirators Now Available

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, the American Hospital Association has worked closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal, state and local partners to respond to challenges related to availability of N95 respirators.

The Food and Drug Administration last week issued an [emergency use authorization for the Battelle Decontamination System](#) for decontaminating compatible N95 and equivalent respirators for reuse by health care personnel.

This message includes information on the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)[™] and how it could help your organization access additional quantities of N95 and equivalent respirators. Please share this email with your COVID-19 response team.

The Battelle Institute is operating sites across the U.S. to increase the inventory of N95 and equivalent respirators. At present, Battelle hydrogen peroxide gas decontamination units are available for rapid intake and reprocessing of up to 80,000 respirators per day in:

- New Jersey
- New York
- Ohio (also serving Michigan and Indiana)
- Washington

The Battelle CCDS[™] is grounded on an [FDA study](#) completed following a 2016 contagion. The study validated that CCDS[™] technology successfully decontaminated N95 masks and that the mask could withstand processing 20 times with no degradation of filtration performance. Battelle is conducting additional research to validate that other materials, such as surgical masks and ventilator components, can withstand the process and continue to function as designed following multiple decontamination cycles.

This [infographic](#) highlights the step-by-step procedures to pack and ship compatible N95 respirators for decontamination. Health care professionals should take appropriate cautions and wear protective equipment when collecting, marking and packing contaminated masks. Hospitals and health systems should identify key chain of custody personnel and designate them as the team leads to ensure the procedures are followed. Team members may include supply chain, risk management, facility services, environmental services and infection prevention.

To learn more about how to enroll in this program, please contact Battelle directly by clicking [here](#) and complete the Battelle CCDS[™] [inquiry form](#).

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