

**From:** OH, COVIDUpdates <[COVIDUpdates@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:COVIDUpdates@ontariohealth.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:30 AM

**To:** OH, COVIDUpdates <[COVIDUpdates@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:COVIDUpdates@ontariohealth.ca)>

**Subject:** Conserving N95 masks, PPE for reprocessing/reuse

**To:** Ontario Hospitals

**From:** Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health

**Re:** Conserving N95 masks, PPE for reprocessing/reuse

Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a key part of our work to ensure we can protect all our healthcare workers. This is a logical next step as part of contingency planning for the anticipated surge in COVID-19 cases - and is an addition to the overall management of our supply chain activities.

Evidence supports that there are various methods of retaining, sterilizing, reprocessing and reusing PPE, including N95 masks. Ontario Health is working with various partners throughout our system to determine the best approach to implement these conservation methods. We will continue to explore other advanced technologies.

To support this work and while we finalize our recommendations, we recommend that all organizations refrain from disposing of N95 masks and surgical masks and use biohazard bags to store the masks for potential reprocessing.

More details will follow on best practices for organizations to implement sterilization of N95 masks, an approach which supports our conservation efforts consistent with supporting a safe work environment.

Thank you,

Matthew Anderson

Ontario Health