



**Battelle Decontamination System for
Decontaminating Compatible N95 Respirators
Friday, May 8, 2020 Q+A**

1. Are decontaminated masks intended to go back to the individual that originally wore the respirator?

The decontaminated masks returned can be redistributed as brand new and re-worn by anyone.

2. Please clarify labeling, I have seen two images one that labeled the outside of the mask one that labeled the inside. should respirators be labeled in one or both places?

For Battelle to process the mask, the 3-digit code needs to be on the outside of the mask. The organization can establish their own personal labeling/identification system, but Battelle only requires the 3-digit code on the outside of the mask.

3. How often do you recommend N95 respirators be processed? Should they be processed after each use or can other conservation methods still be followed? If so at what interval should the N95 respirators be processed?

The frequency of N95 respirator decontamination is dependent on your agency's guidelines. Each respirator can be processed up to 20 times unless they are soiled or damaged.

4. What is the shipping and processing lead times if utilizing the preferred shipping carrier?

All N95 respirators will be processed upon receipt. The preferred shipping carrier is FedEx priority overnight.

5. If contaminated respirators are shipped to the decontamination center in a rigid shipping container will the respirators be returned in the same container? Or are cardboard shipping containers preferred?

Battelle recommends that you send them in a rigid, cardboard box. The original shipping container of the contaminate respirators will not be returned. All decontaminated N95 respirators will only be returned in a new cardboard box.

6. Do you anticipate the process to take longer once more hospitals or other facilities utilize this system to decon?

Battelle is currently operating capacity and does not anticipate a longer processing time if hospitals or other facilities utilize the system. Battelle's goal is to have decontaminated N95 respirators ready for shipment back to the originating provider within 72 hours of receipt.

7. Please provide link to share this webinar

Documents will be available on the Cook County EMRS website:

<https://www.cookcountyemergencymanagement.org/>

A recording of the webinar can be accessed via the link: <https://vimeo.com/416514162>



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8. What is the turnaround time if we mail in our N95?

Battelle's goal is to have decontaminated N95 respirators ready for shipment back to the originating provider within 72 hours of receipt and it can be faster but also slower. Ultimately, the timing is dependent on the aeration time. The hydrogen peroxide level has to be down to the acceptable OSHA level standard of 1.0 and Battelle remains rigid about the science in the procedure and will not be returned unless it dries out correctly.

9. What have the manufacturers of N95s said about how the process impacts the fit and filtration properties? And what happens to the masks they deem ineligible for decontamination? How do we get those masks returned?

Any N95 respirators deemed ineligible (soiled, damaged or not compatible) will be disposed of and not returned. Battelle's Critical Care Decontamination System™ has been tested and proven effective for decontaminating thousands of N95 filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) respirators. In addition to receiving FDA clearance for all compatible masks, it is used in Battelle's labs daily, which are BSL 2 and BSL 3 labs. You can find more information about the FDA process on Battelle's website ([3-page summary](#) and [45-page final report](#)), including the testing and the science behind the study.

10. How long does it take for Battelle to reach out back to you to complete the registration process? I still haven't heard back from them.

Enrollees should receive a confirmation within 30 minutes. If not, please email Anne Ward directly at warda@battelle.org or solutions@battelle.org.

11. Are agencies required by CCEMRS to use THIS Battelle Disinfectant system program to be eligible to receive additional N95 masks & PPE? We already have a GermAwayUV 55 Watt Ultraviolet UV Light Disinfectant system at our agency.

Yes, agencies are currently encouraged to use the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™. Battelle does not comment on other systems and will not differentiate if one is better than the other. CDC published [guidance](#) in support of using the vaporous hydrogen peroxide (VHP) as a promising method to decontaminate FFRs. VHP treatment was shown to inactivate >99.999% of all phages which was below the limit of detection.

12. Can N95 that are decontaminated be stored for later usage?

Yes, for Battelle standards and documentation will be provided by Battelle.

13. Do senior care/nursing home facilities qualify?

Yes, Battelle can provide the services to healthcare providers. This ranges from hospital nurses, nursing homes, home health, and emergency first responders.



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14. Can you tell me more about what is in the contract we will need to sign? Where could I get a copy of it?

The contract is a service agreement that recognizes that the technology is under an Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA. Upon completion of the enrollment link (available on the Battelle website) the enrollee will be sent a link to review the contract prior to signing without having to commit to anything.

15. About 10 days ago, IEMA or IDPH stated a 2nd unit will be placed at Hines VA. There hasn't been any comments about that since. Will another unit still be coming?

The expected capacity has not been reached and at this time, the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™ will be at the Waukegan site. FEMA determines the sites and the Hines VA location is currently on hold. The shipping time to the Waukegan site seems to remain consistent and similar for all locations and encourage everyone to use the facility. If a new site that is closer to your organization opens up, Battelle will update and switch your location based on your request.

16. I am with the Illinois State Police, with 30 to 40 work units. Should be register once or have one person per work unit? Total 30 to 40 different ISP registrations

You will register once for the Service Agreement. Upon completion of the service agreement, you will receive an excel sheet where you can enter each individual unit which will be assigned a site code. This will enable them to individually ship to and from the site. Only one service agreement is required.

17. Are the returned masks individually wrapped liked "as new"?

No, the masks are returned in a box in shipments of 150 (depending on the site). They will be in a sealed plastic bag and placed in a cardboard box.

18. Do you anticipate the process to take longer once more hospitals or other facilities utilize this system to decon?

No, the goal is to maintain the 72 hours turnaround. The only factor that can impact the process is the weather, specifically humidity due to how it affects the air outside.

19. Are KN95 and KN90 capable for the decon process?

Battelle currently accepts only non-cellulose N95s. Currently awaiting response from the FDA regarding the approval of other masks such as KN95s. Information will be provided as soon as any changes or updates are available.

20. How long will this operation continue? Months?

Currently under contract for 6 months.



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21. In the future, will other PPE items be available for this DECON process?

Yes, in addition to the compatibility of KN95s, Battelle is working with the FDA on approval for the decontamination of additional PPE. Please reach out to Battelle directly with any additional PPEs that would be impactful to your organization as they are always looking for feedback.

22. My follow up is the CDC only recommends reuse of N95s five times, is the 20 times based on FDA EUA, and it is up to each AHJ on the number of times, or does the FDA have a different recommendation than NIOSH and/or CDC?

FDA has approved the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System™ process up to 20 times. Battelle has tested the science up to 50 times and did not see any degradation in the performance. The current FDA EUA limit is 20 times however in practice, 6 to 7 times seems to be the limit due to the soiling from use by responders in the front lines.