



Office of the Director of Police
The University of Texas System
TRAINING BULLETIN 027
GUIDANCE ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
FOR COVID-19 VIRUS
April 2, 2020



I. Purpose

The purpose of this training bulletin is to inform and provide guidance to University of Texas System Police (UTSP) personnel on using the recommended Personal Protective Equipment for Law Enforcement Officers that are responding to COVID-19 incidents. This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of the COVID-19 virus. This training bulletin shall be read in conjunction with "UTSP Policy 846, "Communicable Disease Encounters," and Training Bulletin 025 "COVID-19 Virus Disease Officer Guidelines".

II. Definitions

- A. Reuse refers to the practice of using the same N95 respirator for multiple encounters with individuals but removing it ('doffing') between at least some of the encounters. The respirator is stored in between encounters and reused.¹

III. Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Law enforcement who must make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should follow the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Interim Guidance for EMS <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html> .

Different styles of PPE may be necessary to perform operational duties. According to CDC these alternative styles (i.e., coveralls) must provide protection that is at least as great as that provided by the minimum amount of PPE recommended.

The minimum PPE recommended is:

- A single pair of disposable examination gloves,
- Disposable isolation gown or single- use/disposable coveralls (Tyvek Suits),
- Any National Institute for Occupational and Health (NIOSH) approved particulate respirator (i.e., N-95 or higher- level respirator); surgery masks with face shields that fully covers the front and sides of the face are an acceptable alternative until the supply chain is restored, and
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield)

*If unable to wear a disposable gown or coveralls because it limits access to duty belt and gear, ensure duty belt and gear are disinfected after contact with an individual.²

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

IV. Intended Use of the N95 Mask, Use Limitations and Storage

- A. An N95 mask (also called a respirator) is a mask that is worn over the face to prevent the inhalation of airborne particles. The N95 mask is designed to filter out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles. When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around the edges of the respirator when user inhales.³
- B. The N95 mask ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures (i.e. cardiopulmonary resuscitation, intubation, manual ventilation) It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.⁴
- C. Supplies of N95 respirators can become depleted during an influenza pandemic or wide-spread outbreaks of other infectious respiratory illnesses. Disposable N95 respirators worn for COVID-19 may be re-used or worn for extended use as long as they are able to seal, were not worn during an aerosol procedure (i.e. cardiopulmonary resuscitation, intubation, manual ventilation) or have not reached the end of their use by being soiled, damaged or moist from sweat or insensible fluid loss through breathing.⁵
- D. The N95 respirator should be stored in a well-ventilated container (i.e., paper bag with handles) with a username and date to prevent reuse by another individual. Individuals should also write their names on the mask where straps are attached or on the elastic straps.
- E. It is also recommended for individuals to write the dates and times used on the bag to track overall use.⁶
- F. If no manufacturer guidance is available, it is recommended to limit the number of reuses to no more than five per device to ensure an adequate safety margin.⁷

V. Intended Use for Tyvek Suits for COVID -19 Response

- A. Tyvek jumpsuits are made of polyethylene fibers to provide full body coverage and repel aerosols and fluids.

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandingDifference3-508.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

- B. Tyvek garments are single-use products and not intended for reuse. It is also not recommended to wash or disinfect Tyvek garments for reuse. They can be worn until damaged, altered or contaminated.⁸

VI. Guidance for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

A. Donning

- Perform hand hygiene with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Don gown or coveralls (Tyvek Suit)
- Remove the N95 mask from paper storage bag and visually inspect it for distortion and if creased or bent do not use. Don the N-95 respirator.
- The proper donning and sealing of the N-95 mask cannot be accomplished when facial hair other than a moustache is present.⁹
- Avoid touching the inside of the respirator. If inadvertent contact is made with the inside of the respirator, perform hand hygiene as described above.
 - Perform a negative/positive seal check by doing the following: (See Appendix 1)
 - No air should be felt around the perimeter while blowing out. If you feel air coming out it is not a tight seal.
 - When taking a small breath in, the mask should pucker in slightly. If it does not, it is not re-usable.
 - When breathing out you should feel the respirator expand slightly. If it does not, it is not re-usable.
- If not a tight seal, the respirator cannot be re-used.
- Don goggles or full-face shield over N95.
- Gloves¹⁰

Refer to Appendix 2 for proper donning images.

B. Doffing

- PPE must be removed carefully and in the proper sequence, in order to minimize possible contamination risks
- Key concept “Touch ONLY clean to clean and dirty to dirty”-In other words do not touch “dirty surfaces” with “clean hands”, or vice versa.
- Perform hand hygiene between steps if hands become contaminated and immediately after removing all PPE.¹¹

⁸ https://www.dupont.com/content/dam/dupont/amer/us/en/personal-protection/public/documents/en/Safety_COVID-19_Response_Letter_FAQ.pdf

⁹ <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1996-10-03>

¹⁰ https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ppe-training/n95respirator_coveralls/donning_04.html

¹¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

- Follow standard procedures for the disposal of used PPE.
 1. Remove gloves
 2. Remove goggles or face shield
 3. Remove gown or Tyvek Suit
 4. Remove mask or N95 respirator
 5. Perform hand hygiene

Refer to Appendix 2 for proper doffing images.

VII. To Protect Yourself from Exposure

- A. If possible, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.
- B. Practice proper hand hygiene.
- C. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- D. If soap and water are not readily available use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- E. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- F. Have a trained Emergency Medical Service/ Emergency Medical Technician (EMS/EMT) assess and transport anyone you think might have COVID-19 to a healthcare facility.
- G. Ensure only trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) have contact with individuals who have or may have COVID-19.¹²

VIII. If Close Contact Occurred During Apprehension

- A. Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- B. Follow standard procedures for the disposal of used PPE.¹³
- C. According to the CDC Guidelines, the most effective method for sanitizing soiled clothes is to wash your clothing in hot water, 160°F and with chlorine bleach. CDC also advises that the dry-cleaning process, which includes cleaning and pressing, is an acceptable alternative.¹⁴

¹² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>


¹³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

IX. Cleaning Transport Vehicles after Transporting Individuals with Confirmed COVID-19 individuals

The following are general guidelines for cleaning or maintaining transport vehicles and equipment after transporting a confirmed COVID-19 individual:

- A. After transporting the individual, leave the rear doors of the transport vehicle open to allow for sufficient air changes to remove potentially infectious particles.
- B. When cleaning the vehicle, Officers should wear a disposable gown or Tyvek Suit and gloves. A face shield or facemask and goggles should also be worn if splashes or sprays during cleaning are anticipated.
- C. Ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly, to include the provision of adequate ventilation when chemicals are in use. Doors should remain open when cleaning the vehicle.
- D. CDC recommends that for disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>).¹⁵
- E. Clean and disinfect the vehicle and all surfaces that may have come in contact with the individual.
- F. Follow standard procedures for the disposal of used PPE.¹⁶



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¹⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>