



Training Bulletin

PAUL M. PAZEN, CHIEF OF POLICE

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Source: Matthew M. Lunn, Office of the Deputy Chief

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PROPER UTILIZATION AND EXTENDING THE USE OF YOUR N95 RESPIRATOR

This training bulletin is meant to provide guidance on what situations you should use your personal protective equipment (PPE) and how you can safely extend the use of your N95 respirator, particularly in light of the current worldwide shortage. If you have not already reviewed the series of PPE videos on PoliceOne, you can review the video with Dr. Bill Burman, Director of Denver Public Health here: [DPD PPE video](#) and the extended video on donning and doffing here: [PPE Donning and Doffing](#). Using proper donning and doffing techniques reduces accidental contamination of PPE and helps to extend their use.

The department has issued two different kits to individuals serving in front-line capacities and will continue to do so to ensure everyone has a kit. Additionally, all officers have been issued safety glasses that should be **worn at all times** and cleaned regularly with soap and water, disinfectant wipes, or a UV light.

Personal Mask Kit (PMK): This kit includes an N95 respirator and two individual hand wipes in a plastic tub. This kit is your “go-to” mask that can be utilized when you **anticipate close contact** with an individual on a call for service.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): This kit includes an N95 respirator, Tyvek suit, and three (3) pairs of gloves. The PPE kits should be utilized if officers are responding to:

1. An address with an individual under isolation
2. A call involving a symptomatic individual (fever, cough, shortness of breath)
3. Any call where you feel there may be a potential exposure risk

Due to the deficit of available N95 masks around the world, you are being asked to extend the use of your respirators; in short, do not use and discard after a single use if possible. The use of these masks can be extended as long as:

1. The mask maintains its fit and function (see [OSHA Fit Testing](#))
2. You avoid crushing or folding the mask
3. The mask does not become contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from an individual
 - a. If the mask does become contaminated, contact Uniform Supply or your supervisor to have it replaced immediately
4. You do not touch the mask with your gloves after touching surfaces or an individual
5. You only touch or adjust the respirator with clean hands (i.e. washed with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) or a clean pair of gloves
6. You use a clean pair of gloves to put on your N95 respirator (do not remove your mask with dirty gloves)
7. You do not touch the inside of the N95 respirator
8. Between uses, you are placing your mask by itself in a paper bag to allow it to air out and avoid contamination when off duty
9. You do not spray liquid disinfectants on the N95 respirator

Your N95 respirator can also be disinfected with the use of the UV light system. A video explaining the system’s use can be found here: [UV Unit Operation](#). The UV lights will inactivate microorganisms (bacterium, virus, fungus) in the 15’ x 15’ exposure area. The manufacturer of the UV units recommends a one-hour exposure for duty belts, glasses, and masks.

Lastly, if possible, when arresting an individual who is symptomatic, put a surgical mask on them to limit virus exposure and transmission.