



National Health Mission  
SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9  
Himachal Pradesh  
Dated: Shimla-171009, the



To

All the Chief Medical Officers  
In Himachal Pradesh

All the Medical Superintendents  
In Himachal Pradesh

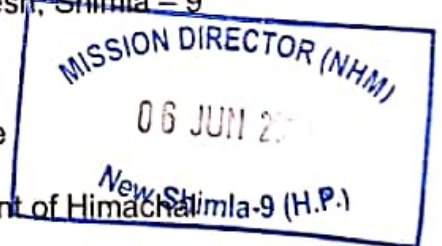
Subject Regarding re-use of N-95 masks in non-COVID areas.

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed herewith document on extending the use of N-95 masks in non-COVID areas being followed at IGMC Shimla. You may adopt the same for institutions under your control.

Yours sincerely,

*N. J. [Signature]*  
6/6/20.  
Special Secretary (Health) cum  
Mission Director, NHM  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla - 9



Endst. No. As above-

Dated:- Shimla-9, the

Copy for information and necessary action to :-

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Health) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Director of Health Services, Himachal Pradesh
3. The Director Medical Education, Himachal Pradesh

*N. J. [Signature]*  
6/6/20.  
Special Secretary (Health) cum  
Mission Director, NHM  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla - 9



## IGMC Shimla document on extending the use of n95 masks in non COVID areas

Healthcare workers in all fields have reported difficulties sourcing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources are available to help HCPs to determine when and how to extend the use of N95 masks/respirators while maintaining appropriate infection control.

Masks can provide adequate protection for eight hours of continuous or intermittent use.

“Extended use” and “Reuse” are defined as follows:

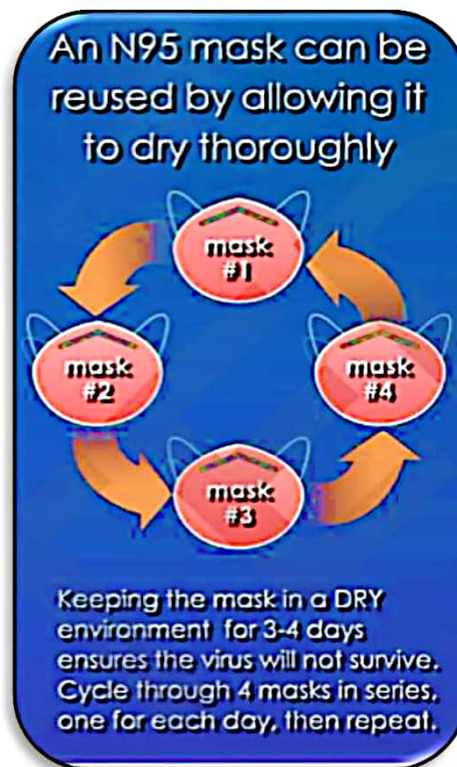
- Extended use refers to continuous wear of the same N95 respirator, without removal between patients, when working on multiple patients.
- Reuse refers to wearing the same N95 mask, with removal between patients for a maximum of five donning, when working on multiple patients.

**You must observe each of the following when reusing or extending the use of N95 masks:**

- Conduct a user seal check after each donning.
- Discard any N95 mask contaminated by the patient.
- Discard N95 masks following close contact with patients exhibiting active signs or symptoms of COVID19 or any other infectious disease.
- Discard any N95 mask that is damaged or difficult to breathe through.
- Consider using a face shield over the N95 masks.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after touching or adjusting the N95 mask.
- Mask can be reused upto the fit seal test is ok.

**Additional steps apply for N95 masks that will be reused:**

- Masks need to be hung in a designated storage area or kept in a clean, breathable container between uses.
- Stored masks should be organized in such a way that they do not touch one another.
- The user of the mask needs to be clearly identified (e.g., writing the user’s name on the straps).
- If the inside of the mask is touched, it needs to be discarded and hand hygiene performed.
- Clean, non-sterile gloves are to be worn when donning an N95 mask or performing a user seal check, after which the gloves are to be discarded.



Dr. Sanjay Mahajan

Dr. Malay Sarkar

Dr. Ashwani K. Sood