
NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ADVISORY

Guidance for the Development of a Policy Prohibiting the Use of Makeup and Other Contaminants by Employees of Healthcare Organizations Utilizing the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System for Authorized N-95 Masks

July 14, 2020

This is a New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory regarding guidance for the development of a policy prohibiting the use of makeup and other contaminants by employees of healthcare organizations utilizing the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS) for authorized N-95 masks.

Healthcare organizations are strongly encouraged to maximize the use of the Battelle CCDS by developing internal policies to reduce the percentage of masks which are not eligible for decontamination according to guidance from Battelle. Currently, 5.8 percent of masks submitted for decontamination are discarded. Of the nearly 6% discarded:

- 90% of masks discarded are due to makeup as there's no guarantee makeup or soiled parts (to include straps) on a mask are not hiding or protecting the COVID 19 virus. To protect provider safety those masks are discarded as hazardous waste
- 5% of masks discarded are because of other soiling or rust which can create an inhalation danger and will degrade performance of the mask
- 5% of masks discarded are because they are not approved for processing by Battelle. This includes masks with exhalation valves

NMDOH strongly encourages healthcare organizations to develop internal policies which limit the use of makeup and other potential contaminants by providers wearing N-95 masks eligible for decontamination in the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System. For more comprehensive guidance regarding Identifying FDA EUA Authorized N95 Respirators for Battelle CCDS™ Processing (updated June 10, 2020), please refer to the attached document.

To enroll in the Battelle system, visit <http://www.battelle.org/decon> and for details of the Battelle CCDS process, refer to the attached info graph.

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