



COVID-19 RESPONSE POLICY/PROTOCOL

TITLE	PPE BEYOND USE FOR UNAVAILABLE OR EXPIRED PRODUCTS
TODAY'S DATE	April 4, 2020
SECTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization Wide <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Department <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Medical staff [physicians and advance care practitioners]

APPLICABLE LOCATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Bozeman Health locations <input type="checkbox"/> Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Big Sky Medical Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Belgrade Clinic + UrgentCare <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Senior Living <input type="checkbox"/> b2 UrgentCare <input type="checkbox"/> b2 MicroCare
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VERSION DATE	April 4, 2020
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APPROVED BY	Rebecca Williamson, Infection Prevention, Compliance/Liaison
APPROVAL DATE	April 4, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of the PPE Beyond Use for Unavailable or Expired Products is to outline a process for use of expired products during shortages when the benefit outweighs the risk. During national backorders, recently expired products that have a critical indication for use may be sequestered in the event that it must be used. This policy outlines the guidance for using these products.

POLICY/PROTOCOL: If product is unavailable through vendors, cooperative buy/sell agreements with local healthcare organizations or their reputable sources, stock that is past its expiration date may be utilized provided that following occurs before use:

N95s

Users of N95s that have exceeded the manufacturer-designated shelf life **should be notified** before their use and the importance of inspection and user seal checks should be reemphasized.

Users should take the following precautionary measures prior to using the respirator in the workplace.

- Visually inspect the N95 to determine if its integrity has been compromised.
- Check that components such as the straps, nose-bridge, and nose foam material did not degrade, which can affect the quality of the fit, and seal, and therefore the effectiveness of the respirator.
- If the integrity of any part of the respirator is compromised, or if a successful user seal check cannot be performed, discard the respirator and try another respirator.
- Users should perform a user seal check immediately after they don each respirator and should not use a respirator on which they cannot perform a successful user seal check.

CDC does not recommend using N95s beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life **in surgical settings**.

N95s Summary

- In times of increased demand and decreased supply, consideration can be made to use the N95s listed above past their manufacturer-designated shelf life if no other option is available.



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- This preliminary information from the NIOSH study suggests certain N95 models beyond their manufacturer-designated shelf life will be protective. CDC recommends that N95s that have exceeded their manufacturer-designated shelf life should be used only as outlined in the [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#).
- Reports detailing the performance results of stockpiled respirators sampled from stockpile facilities are available on the [NIOSH webpage](#).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/crisis-alternate-strategies.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/release-stockpiled-N95.html>

DISPOSABLE ISOLATION GOWNS

Use of expired gowns beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life for training.

The majority of isolation gowns do not have a manufacturer-designated shelf life. However, consideration can be made to using gowns that do and are past their manufacturer-designated shelf life.

- Please check the integrity of the gown for rips, tears or other sign of impaired integrity.
- If integrity is impaired, discard the product.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

FACEMASKS

Use facemasks beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life during patient care activities.

If there is an expiration date on the facemask, the user should visually inspect the product prior to use and, if there are concerns (such as degraded materials or visible tears), discard the product.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

GLOVES

Expiration dates are not mandated by the FDA for examination gloves. In general, the shelf life for nitrile and latex exam gloves is about four years. Please inspect gloves for any break in integrity or signs of degradation. Discard the product if there are signs of degradation or breaks in integrity.

https://www.mcrmedical.com/faqs/product_info/exam_gloves.html

NOTES:

OTHER POLICIES/PROTOCOLS TO REFERENCE: