

UW Health: Hospital begins sterilization of N-95 respirators

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MADISON, Wis. -Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, N-95 respirators have been in high demand and there have been shortages on the federal, state and local level.

At this point, UW Health has an adequate supply of N-95 respirators. However, as a part of the ongoing preparedness plan, UW Health has begun sterilizing previously worn N-95 respirators for re-use should our inventory run low.

N-95 respirators are personal protective equipment that protects the healthcare worker from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

All previously worn N-95 respirators will be sterilized for re-use unless they are unserviceable (soiled, stained, or unidentifiable). UW Health uses Steris V-PRO MAX Low Temperature Sterilization which sterilizes with hydrogen peroxide vapor. This sterilization method was selected after a thorough data- driven validation process.