

FAQ's: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **What is a respirator?**

A respirator is a personal protective device that is worn on the face or head and covers at least the nose and mouth. Respirators, including those intended for use in healthcare settings, are certified by the CDC/NIOSH and should be fit tested prior to use.

- **How does an N95 respirator work?**

An N95 filtering facepiece respirator (FFR) is a type of respirator which removes particles from the air that are breathed through it. These respirators filter out at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles, including bacteria and viruses.

- **Does O&M Halyard sell facial protection to prevent transmission of the coronavirus?**

Infection control procedures including administrative rules and engineering controls, environmental hygiene, correct work practices, and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) are all necessary to prevent infections from spreading.

Respirators alone do not protect against the coronavirus. We do not claim that wearing our respirators prevents coronavirus.

Please refer to (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>) and WHO guidelines, for information on infection prevention and control regarding *COVID-19*.

- **What is O&M Halyard's position on selling expired respirators?**

O&M Halyard position is that we will not sell expired respirators. O&M Halyard has no data to support the use of respirators beyond the expiration date printed on the package and does not recommend using our products past its expiration date. The CDC has not provided an exemption for manufacturers to sell expired respirators.

- **What is O&M Halyard position on selling other personal protective equipment that has expired?**

O&M Halyard's position is that we will not sell PPE that has expired. We only recommend using products that conform to the product labelling and will not sell product that is expired.

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- Does O&M Halyard have a position on using expired respirators?**

O&M Halyard does not recommend using expired HALYARD brand respirators. O&M Halyard only has data to support the 5-year expiration date described on the product labelling for HALYARD* N95 Particulate Filter Respirators and Surgical Masks. This data supports the functionality of the respirator including the straps and nose bridge, which can affect the quality of the fit and seal. Additionally, it supports certification requirements set by NIOSH to ensure filtration of small particles, including bacteria and viruses.
- Where are HALYARD* N95 respirators manufactured?**

O&M Halyard, HALYARD* N95 Respirators are manufactured in our internal North American manufacturing sites.
- Can you reuse a HALYARD* N95 respirator?**

No. HALYARD* N95 respirators are labelled as single use. The respirators are designed to be disposable and should be removed and discarded after exiting the patient’s room or care area and closing the door. We are aware that the CDC has published a [guidance document](#) that recommends practices for extended use and limited reuse of NIOSH-certified N95 filtering facepiece respirators (commonly called “N95 respirators”). The recommendations are intended for use by professionals who manage respiratory protection programs in healthcare institutions to protect health care workers from job-related risks of exposure to infectious respiratory illnesses.
- Can you clean a HALYARD* N95 Respirator?**

No. HALYARD* N95 Respirators are labelled as single use. The respirators are designed to be disposable and not to be reprocessed (cleaned, disinfected/sterilized).
- Due to the shortage of PPE like facial protection, can any other O&M Halyard products be used to make facial protection?**

No. O&M Halyard only recommends using our products as described by the label as we only have data to support the indications for use for what is described on the label. O&M Halyard does not have any data to support the safety of products used off-label or for product that has been modified.

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- **Can Surgical Gowns be used as Isolation Gowns?**

Surgical Gowns and Isolation Gowns have different intended use claims. O&M Halyard recommends only using products as described by the products label claims.

The CDC provides the following guidance on the types of gowns available for healthcare personnel to protect from COVID-19:

- While the transmissibility of COVID-19 is not fully understood, gowns are available that protect against microorganisms. The choice of gown should be made based on the level of risk of contamination. Certain areas of Surgical and Isolation Gowns are defined as “critical zones” where direct contact with blood, body fluids, and/or other potentially infectious materials is most likely to occur. (ANSI/AAMI PB70).
- If there is a medium to high risk of contamination and need for a large critical zone, Isolation Gowns that claim moderate to high barrier protection (ANSI/AAMI PB70 Level 3 or 4) can be used.

For healthcare activities with low, medium, or high risk of contamination, Surgical Gowns (ANSI/AAMI PB70 Levels 1-4), can be used. These gowns are intended to be worn by healthcare personnel during surgical procedures.

- If the risk of bodily fluid exposure is low or minimal, gowns that claim minimal or low levels of barrier protection (ANSI/AAMI PB70 Level 1 or 2) can be used. Isolation Gowns should not be worn during surgical or invasive procedures, or for medium to high risk contamination patient care activities.

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