

Re-Use of Surgical Facemasks and Eye Protection

A how-to guide for the re-use of surgical masks and eye protection for optimizing the supply.

Re-use of surgical facemasks

- Surgical facemask must only be used by a single user.
- Keep used surgical facemask in a clean breathable container between uses (e.g. paper bag).
- The procedure/surgical facemask should be removed and replaced if soiled, damaged or hard to breathe through.

Re-use and cleaning of eye protection

- Eye protection may be reused from patient to patient.
- Disinfect after each patient encounter with appropriate EPA-approved¹ products against SARS-CoV-2. Allow to air dry.
- If eye protection is no longer able to be cleaned or has obvious etching obscuring the view, the eye protection should be discarded and a new one should be obtained.

Adapted from:

Illinois Department of Public Health. *Recommended Guidance for Extended Use of N-95 Masks, Regular Masks, and PAPRs*. Published March 25, 2020.

¹EPA Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>