

Freedom of Information request 237-20

Request

Decontamination of re-usable respirators

A survey from Med Supply Drive Scotland to better understand the accepted practice of reusable respirators in the UK. We are keen to understand types of respirators used by which staff members, under what settings, and how these respirators are decontaminated.

- 1) Which hospital are you based in?
- 2) Who in your NHS trust signed off on the use of re-usable respirators?
- 3) What types of re-usable respirators are being used?
 - a) Half-face
 - b) Full-face
 - c) Gas or vapor cartridges
 - d) Combination cartridges
 - e) Respirator filters
 - f) Respirator pre-filters
 - g) Powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs)
 - h) Other
- 4) How many sets of cartridges/filters do you have?
- 5) What is the brand of re-usable respirators used?
 - a) Moldex
 - b) 3M
 - c) RS
 - d) Sundström
 - e) Other
- 6) Which groups of workers use the re-usable respirators in your hospital?
 - a) All staff
 - b) Cleaners
 - c) Axillary and/or phlebotomy staff
 - d) Clerical staff
 - e) Allied health professionals (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, radiographers, dietetics, podiatry)
 - f) Doctors
 - g) Nursing staff
 - h) Other
- 7) When are the re-usable respirators used?
- 8) Please attach your re-usable respirator fit check policy here.
- 9) Who is responsible for the decontamination of the re-usable respirators?

- a) The user
 - b) The central sterile services department (CSSD)
 - c) Other
- 10) What products are used to decontaminate masks and filters?
- a) Sodium hypochlorite solution
 - b) Quaternary ammonia solution
 - c) 70% isopropanol solution
 - d) Cleenol surface cleaning and sanitising wipes
 - e) Chlor-clean tablets
 - f) Other
- 11) How often are filters or cartridges changed?
- a) After each use
 - b) At the end of each day
 - c) At the end of each week
 - d) Other
- 12) Please attach standard operating procedures for the cleaning and disinfection of masks and filters.

Response

1. Borders General Hospital
2. Infection Control, Health & Safety and the Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Acute Services.
3. Powered air purifying respirators
4. Approximately 135 pairs.
5. 3M currently in use. Sundström to be deployed.
6. Doctors and Nursing Staff are the primary users.
7. They are used:
 - a. When none of the disposable FFP3 face masks available were able to provide a suitable seal to achieve a pass when the staff member was face fit tested.
 - b. When staff need to wear an FFP3 face mask for an extended period of time.
 - c. For intubation and extubation procedures.
 - d. When a patient requires to be able to see a staff member's face, e.g. to lip read.
8. We do not have a specific re-usable respirator fit check policy. There is guidance on the use of the 3M powered respirator.
9. The user and central sterile services department are responsible for decontamination.
10. Tristel Fuse is used for decontamination.
11. Filters are changed:
 - a. When they reach the manufacturer's expiry date
 - b. When there is a repeated failure on pre-use air flow checks.
 - c. When they have been grossly contaminated with body fluids during usage
 - d. After 6 months of fitting
12. Please find attached below document:



W117 Jupiter Mask
Decontamination.pdf

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to,

Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **237-20** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.