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Technical Bulletin
April, 2020
Revision 2

Cleaning and Disinfecting 3M Reusable Elastomeric Half and Full Facepiece Respirators following Potential Exposure to Coronaviruses

Description

During coronavirus outbreaks, some healthcare organizations may assign reusable elastomeric facepiece respirators to workers providing care for patients with suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus. This document contains considerations related to cleaning and disinfecting facepieces that will be reused after potential exposure to coronaviruses. 3M facepieces covered in this document: 3M™ Half Facepieces 6000, 6500 and 7500 Series and 3M™ Full Facepieces 6000 and FF-400 Series.

The 2008 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publication [Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities](#)¹ (updated May 2018) includes information on disinfecting equipment and surfaces potentially contaminated by coronaviruses. The U.S. CDC investigated many chemicals and cited several chemical germicides as being effective for coronaviruses, when used as indicated in the product user instructions. In regions outside of the United States, where EPA-registered disinfectants may be unavailable, this CDC publication will be most helpful in addition to considering all applicable local guidance for your region as it relates to disinfection for coronaviruses.

More recently, the CDC has published [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)² indicating that EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectants are appropriate for SARS-CoV-2 in healthcare settings. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)³. It is a list of EPA-registered antimicrobial products for use against novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, as a reference for specific disinfectants that can be used against coronaviruses.

NOTE: 3M relies on the expertise of the CDC and EPA with respect to microbiological efficacy and has not evaluated the effectiveness of these agents with regards to reactivating viruses on 3M equipment.

Filters and Cartridges

3M does not recommend cleaning or disinfection of filter media (e.g., disc, style filters and pre-filter pads). However, some 3M filter products have a hard plastic case surrounding the filter media. In NIOSH part numbers 7093, 7095C and 6082R as well as EN (European) part numbers 603X and 603R. This hard case can be cleaned by wiping the outside surface with a damp cloth soaked in disinfecting solution until visibly wet for the appropriate contact time and then removing the disinfecting solution with a clean, water-soaked cloth and air drying. Do not allow the disinfecting solution to reach the internal filter media and do not submerge the hard case filters in the disinfecting solution or water. Utilize the same disinfection solutions as recommended for 3M facepieces.

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