

This bulletin reviews the latest OSHA recommendations concerning use of N95 respirators in the operating room.

What's new for N95 respirators?

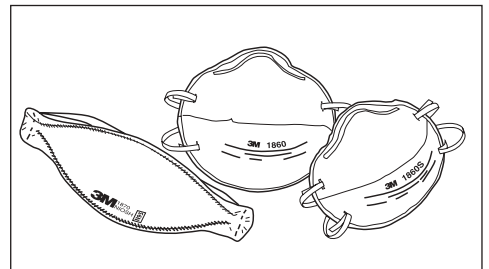
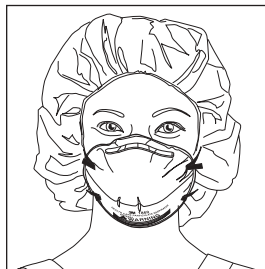
Other Potential Infectious Aerosol Hazards in Health Care Facilities

In settings where surgical lasers are used, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) directs health care professionals to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirators, to help reduce exposures to laser plume. [Reference Category IC (OSHA; 29 CFR 1910.134,139)]

So what does this mean? This means that use of N95 respirators is now being recommended by the CDC for procedures involving lasers

and electrocautery, such as those performed at ophthalmology clinics where LASIK procedures are being done. Lasers are used on each of these procedures. Protection against laser plume is necessary, no matter how quickly the procedure is performed.

For the most up to date information on Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care facilities please see page 14: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5210.pdf



Additional Information

Our 3M Health Care Customer Helpline is available if you have additional questions concerning 3M Health Care masks and respirators at 651 228 3957 or visit our web site at www.3M.com/healthcaremasks.



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