

From: [Cooke Laura](#)
To: SOMALL-L@LISTSERV.TULANE.EDU
Subject: COVID-19 Update: N-95 Mask Reprocessing Update
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:42:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[339102_MID_THS_INT_FL_COVID_N95_Label_Flier.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Sent on behalf of Dr. Bob Lynch, Tulane Health System CEO

Tulane
Health System



Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

Throughout our nation – and throughout HCA Healthcare – we continue to see a large number of people requiring hospitalization for COVID-19. To ensure we maintain an adequate level of PPE here at Tulane and throughout our HCA enterprise, we will begin re-issuing and re-using properly labeled, sterilized N-95 masks, effective tomorrow, Aug. 14.

As a reminder, the sterilization process has been tested by the federal government and has been shown to [effectively sterilize the mask](#) with no degradation of its effectiveness for up to 30 recycles. At that point, the elastic in the straps starts to deteriorate – but the mask itself remains effective. We plan to not exceed five cycles of N-95 masks, and we will of course replace any masks that are damaged or soiled.

While we are beginning to re-issue masks tomorrow, I'm afraid the number of masks that have been properly labeled and returned for sterilization is low – much lower than what we need or expect. Please see and follow the attached instructions for how to properly label your masks for now. We will be reviewing this process and introducing changes to increase compliance in the coming days.

All caregivers who treat confirmed COVID-19 patients or highly suspected patients under investigation for COVID-19, or those who perform high-risk aerosol generating procedures, are provided N-95

respirators. The PPE processes we've used so far have been safe and effective. As we have done throughout this pandemic, we are meeting and, where possible exceeding, CDC recommendations to equip our teams to provide safe, effective care.

We know COVID-19 isn't going away soon, and we will continue to adapt our processes and policies to ensure the safety of you, your colleagues and our patients. Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and service to those in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lynch
CEO
Tulane Health System