

# Valley Medical Group, P.C.

## Clinical Policy and Procedure

### **Title: Elastomeric Mask and Filter care**

**Purpose:** To provide staff and providers with the protocol for care and cleaning of the elastomeric respirator masks and filters.

**Policy:** After proper fit testing, VMG will provide Elastomeric Respirator Masks to designated clinical and provider staff for use during clinical care procedures that require close and sustained contact with a patient for 15 minutes or more of cumulative time. During the fit testing procedure, staff and providers will be provided instruction as to how to don and doff the mask as well as how to attach the filter pieces. It is the responsibility of the staff / provider using this equipment to properly clean and store the equipment as outlined in the procedure. A clean surgical mask will be worn over the Elastomeric Respirator at all times that it is worn during patient care.

### **Procedure:**

- 1) Each staff member who is fit tested to wear an Elastomeric Respirator, will be given a copy of the exact model and size they are to use.
- 2) Each staff member who is fit tested to wear an Elastomeric Respirator will be given their own individual set of filters, which have a life expectancy of 6 months.
  - a) Staff/providers are responsible for safeguarding their set of filters, and properly storing when not in use. They may be stored in the plastic sleeve they came in or a plastic bag.
- 3) Some departments will have a number of different size Elastomeric respirators available for providers and staff to use when working on site. While other departments may have staff/providers issued individual respirators
  - a) Elastomeric Respirators may be used by different staff after proper cleaning.
  - b) The ideal use of shared respirators, is for each staff/provider to use the respirator for the entire day, to allow for proper cleaning at the end of the day and before use by another staff/provider
- 4) Recommended inspection procedure prior to donning:
  - a) Check facepiece for cracks, tears and dirt. Be certain the facepiece, especially the faceseal area, is not distorted.
  - b) Examine inhalation valves for signs of distortion, cracking or tearing.
  - c) Make sure that head straps are intact and have good elasticity.
  - d) Examine all plastic parts for signs of cracking or fatiguing. Make sure filter gaskets or seal areas are in good condition.
  - e) Remove the exhalation valve cover and examine the exhalation valve and valve

seat for signs of dirt, distortion, cracking or tearing. Replace exhalation valve cover.

**5) Cleaning procedures:**

- a) The masks may be wiped down with a disinfectant wipe between patients if needed
- b) At the end of the day, or conclusion of use, detach the filters and store appropriately, re-inspect the respirator then proceed to clean the respirator:
- c) Prepare the cleaning solution in an appropriate container: Mix 1 oz [30 ML] household bleach in 2 gallons [7.5 L] of water
- d) Remove filters
- e) If during inspection find dirt or grime buildup: Clean facepiece (excluding filters) by immersing in warm cleaning solution, water temperature not to exceed 120° F (49° C), and scrub with soft brush until clean. Add neutral detergent if necessary, such as dish soap. Do not use cleaners containing lanolin or other oils.
- f) Disinfect facepiece by soaking in a bleach solution (1 oz [30 ML] household bleach in 2 gallons [7.5 L] of water), or other disinfectant for 1-2 minutes.
- g) Rinse the respirator in warm clean water and air dry in a clean non contaminated area.

**References:**

<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/133586O/3m-reusable-respirator-inspection-cleaning-storage-procedures.pdf>

**Responsibility: Clinical Staff, Providers**

**Effective Date: 11/2020**

**Review Date:**

**Revision Date:**