



**Battelle Decontamination System for  
Decontaminating Compatible N95 Respirators  
Monday, May 11, 2020 Q+A**

A recording of the webinar can be accessed via the link: <https://vimeo.com/417393729>

Documents will be available on the Cook County EMRS website:

<https://www.cookcountyemergencymanagement.org/>

**1. I missed the 80/20 point, can you clarify that again please?**

When masks are submitted, there is typically a fall out of approximately 20% due to soiling or damage. On average, 80% of the masks are successfully decontaminated and returned. This is just an average; some facilities have all masks returned and there are cases when no masks are returned. The biggest reason for soiling is makeup. The chemistry in the make up can not be accounted for which is why masks soiled with makeup do need to be discarded because they cannot be verified as being clean.

**2. Our facility is in southern IL. What kind of turn around time could we expect to receive our masks back if we were to participate?**

Battelle uses Fedex priority overnight, however this is dependent on where your facility is located. If located in a rural area, overnight can be overnight plus half a day. Battelle is currently operating on a 72 hour processing time upon receipt of the masks. Currently, the Waukegan facility is operating faster and has been less than 72 hours from the time the masks arrive at the facility, decontaminated, and shipped back out to the facility. One day of shipping should be accounted for on both sides of the 72 hour processing estimate.

**3. The compatible mask in the presentation labeled 3M 9010 is cellulose treated. That may not be able to be decontaminated.**

A guidance document on the most current treatable masks is available and will be shared with enrollees for clarification.

**4. Can masks go into individual bags then placed into the secondary bag?**

Masks can be placed into individual bags, however Battelle prefers all masks to be placed into one large bag. All masks are returned completely clean, so cross contamination does not matter. All masks are treated as contaminated and recommend using a single collection bin. The Battelle decontamination staff are wearing double latex gloves and opening individual bags make it more challenging for the processing staff.

**5. Who is paying Battelle? No cost isn't accurate.**

The Federal government has contracted with Battelle at no cost to end user. Specifically, Battelle is contracted by the Defensive Logistics Agency (DLA) on behalf of Federal Emergency Management Agency and United States Department of Health & Human Services. The reason Battelle is in the middle of this is due to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) with the FDA allowing only Battelle members to operate the machinery. The DLA has purchased it and Battelle is operating the service side of it currently due to EUA compliance requirement.



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- 6. We are told to store N95 in paper bags when reusing because plastic bags can have a static charge which can negatively affect an electrostatically charged layer in the N95. Is it ok to send N95s in plastic bags?**

Yes, a testing was completing in the laboratory and it does not affect the electrostatic charge, and any type of poly bag may be used. Multiple tests were run to ensure the safety. Battelle is familiar with the guidance, but the plastic bags are safer for all individuals involved in the transit while not affecting the electrostatic charge.

- 7. Does FedEx require more than one biohazard label on the shipping box?**

On the shipping box, a Biological Substance label (UN 3373). Upon signing up with Battelle, the label will be provided. If using an additional biohazard label, it will go on the plastic bag inside of the box. If only a biohazard sticker is used, it will not be delivered to Battelle so the appropriate UN 3373 label will need to be used for compliance.

- 8. What if no makeup is worn but there is natural exfoliation from wearing them all day?**

All masks must pass a visual clean test. If the mask is visually bloody, has body fluids, etc, it will be discarded. It is a basic test of "would you want to wear when you get back?" and Battelle makes sure it is new every time it is out of the box to ensure it is clean.

- 9. Is a fire department ID required when dropping of boxes instead of shipping?**

No, but a 3-digit side code is required to be on the box. This will be provided upon signing and completing the enrollment contract. The same code will also need to be on the mask. The facility is a secure site and will also require a password but an ID is not required, just the 3-digit site code on the box and masks.

- 10. What documents should be included when we drop off the masks?**

Assuming the facility has a site code, all masks and boxes need to be labeled with the site code. There is also a Chain of Custody form which will need to be attached to the outside of the box to review before Battelle personnel suit up for handling. The facility point of contact will be contacted when the masks are ready for pick up if dropped off in person. All instructions and guidance will be provided when a facility signs up and enrolls.

- 11. Do we need to place our name only in the inside?**

No, from the Battelle standpoint, the 3-digit site code is the only requirement. Any individual can write their name on the mask if they prefer but the 3-digit site code needs to be prominently placed on the outside of the mask for Battelle personnel to sort the decontaminated masks. Returning the masks to the individual is up to the facility.