***FDA-Authorized for Emergency Use***

**PPE (N95) Decontamination Availability to Hampton Roads Region.**

Local Partners,

This information is being provided to you in order that Hampton Roads Region Health Care Provider Institutions, and Other Partner Agencies and Organizations can prepare for the availability of N95 Respirator decontamination for your facility / institutions in the Hampton Roads Region.

FEMA and HHS have secured a vapor phase hydrogen peroxide decontamination system that is currently scheduled to be operational in the near future.

The site and contact information will be provided as soon as it has been identified.

The organization responsible for the decontamination process is Battelle Memorial Institute; “Battelle CCDS” (Critical Care Decontamination System)

The Battelle authorized labeling must be provided to HCP and healthcare facilities as directed in Section II, and shall include the specified information as follows:

The Battelle Decontamination System is a self-contained decontamination device that uses vapor phase hydrogen peroxide (VPHP) for decontamination of compatible N95 respirators that are contaminated or potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2. **N95 respirators containing cellulose-based materials are not compatible with decontamination by the Battelle Decontamination System**.

Each decontamination cycle in the Battelle Decontamination System consists of injecting VPHP into the decontamination chamber until achieving a saturated atmosphere indicated by micro condensation; maintaining the VPHP exposure for a 150-minute dwell time; and allowing the VPHP to off gas to a level of 1 ppm prior to post decontamination processing. A minimum of five calibrated chemical indicators are dispersed throughout the system to indicate a successful decontamination cycle. This decontamination system enables the reuse of compatible N95 respirators that would otherwise be disposed of after a single use. However, respirators that are visibly soiled must be discarded and not reused or decontaminated.

Instructions for Healthcare Personnel are sent to all healthcare facilities requesting decontamination of compatible N95 respirators and the facility should make these instructions available to HCP to prepare their own individual, compatible N95 respirator for decontamination. Using a permanent marker, the compatible N95 respirator is labeled by the HCP (following the procedure established by the healthcare facility) with a unique three-digit site code and a two-digit location identifier. The unique three-digit site code corresponds to the return delivery address for each respirator following decontamination.

Instructions for Healthcare Facilities are sent to all healthcare facilities requesting decontamination of compatible N95 respirators. The facility should create a collection station for compatible N95 respirators to be sent to Battelle for decontamination. Collection stations should contain bags (“primary collection bag”) to collect compatible N95 respirators prepared according to the Instructions for Healthcare Personnel. The healthcare facility shall close the primary collection bag. The primary collection bag is then placed into a secondary collection bag, and the facility will appropriately close and decontaminate (using alcohol or other suitable decontaminant) the secondary collection bag. The bags are then placed into rigid, closed boxes clearly labeled with biohazard symbols, taped securely shut, and labeled outside with the three-digit site code and two-digit location identifier. According to the healthcare facility’s agreement with Battelle, the facility should complete the chain of custody form provided by Battelle for each shipment, and send to the designated Battelle location. Upon return of the decontaminated compatible N95 respirators from Battelle to the healthcare facility, the healthcare facility should review the provided chain of custody form indicating successful decontamination, and inspect each compatible N95 respirator for visible damage or soiling, as well as confirm the N95 respirator contains a numerical indicator of the decontamination cycle. Any problems should be immediately reported to Battelle.

Battelle agrees to the following procedures pertaining to the authorized product:

Battelle shall enter into agreements with healthcare facilities requesting decontamination of compatible N95 respirators, and provide such healthcare facilities with the authorized labeling and chain of custody documentation for completion by the healthcare facility to send to Battelle. Upon receipt of the compatible N95 respirators and chain of custody documentation by Battelle, the box of compatible N95 respirators is barcoded and logged into the Battelle Decontamination System tracking database and chain of custody. The used compatible N95 respirator is loaded into the Battelle Decontamination System and undergoes a decontamination cycle. Upon completion of each decontamination cycle, each compatible N95 respirator is removed from the decontamination system. Each compatible N95 respirator is labeled numerically (1, 2, 3, etc.) with a permanent marker to indicate the number of decontamination cycles completed, up to a maximum of 20 cycles. After all decontaminated compatible N95 respirators are labeled, they are boxed and returned to provider with a chain of custody form, which indicates successful decontamination, and the Fact Sheet.

Institutions / Facilities will not be charged for the decontamination of the PPE. **At this time, i**nstitutions / Facilities are responsible for the logistical costs of; reverse distribution, appropriate Battelle compliant packaging, transportation to the decontamination site, unloading materials, reloading materials, transportation from the decontamination site, and distribution of decontaminated equipment.

Please see attached information, if you have any additional questions contact;

Hampton Roads POC – Bruce Sterling (VDEM) – (804) 516-5786

For questions of a technical nature please contact

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