



State of Maryland

**Maryland  
Institute for  
Emergency Medical  
Services Systems**

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To: Highest Jurisdictional Officials  
Commercial Ambulance Services

From: Theodore Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

Date: May 15, 2020

RE: Use of Battelle Decontamination System for N-95 Respirators

As you know, the Battelle Decontamination System is available to all Maryland public safety EMS agencies and commercial ambulance services. N-95 respirators that are not grossly contaminated may be serviced up to 20 times, preparing them for re-use. This is an important aspect of personal protective equipment conservation. MIEMSS negotiated a statewide agreement with Battelle that negated the requirement for each entity to develop a separate contract. We also distributed to each EMS agency and commercial ambulance service all the necessary shipping materials to take advantage of the system. If additional supplies are needed, please contact us.

The availability of the decontamination system is in the context of diminishing supplies of N-95 respirators available to MIEMSS for re-distribution to end-users. Further, the next allocation of N-95 respirators, by virtue of a one-way valve in the mask, make them unsuitable for decontamination using the Battelle system. Thus, it is important that we are taking advantage of the decontamination system for the masks that are currently in the field.

Moving forward, MIEMSS will seek confirmation from any potential recipient of an N-95 allocation that the Battelle Decontamination System is being used. Otherwise, we will determine that the agency or service has an ample supply of N-95 respirators so as to make decontamination for re-use and a new supply unnecessary. Re-stated, making effective use of the Battelle Decontamination System is a pre-requisite to receiving additional N-95 respirators from MIEMSS.

For questions, please contact Randy Linthicum [rlinthicum@miemss.org](mailto:rlinthicum@miemss.org) or Jeffrey Huggins [jhuggins@miemss.org](mailto:jhuggins@miemss.org).

Thank you.