

Email Sent with the Guidance Information on N-95 Respirator Disinfection when Visibly Contaminated according to the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

Hello All,

As you know, we have had a policy to assist N-95 respirator users with the transport of used N-95 respirators to the seven hospitals that have been provided Steris V-Pro sterilizers. With the implementation of this policy, numerous challenges were identified. Vermont's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) provide us a decision relative to these used N-95 respirators that resolves these challenges.

VOSHA informed the SEOC that only used N-95 respirators that are **visibly** contaminated with human blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) need to be handled in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

This allows the N-95 respirator user to package, store and transport used N-95 respirators that are not visibly contaminated with human blood or other potentially infectious materials only in accordance with the instructions they obtain from the hospital where the N-95 respirator is being sterilized. This includes transportation to the hospital via any means, not just via U.S. Department of Transportation licensed dangerous goods carriers.

Please share this with your N-95 user community for us.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me, or have other people contact me, should there be other questions or issues related to used N-95 sterilization.

Bill

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