

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910793570703321
Titolo	Reusable elastomeric respirators in health care : considerations for routine and surge use // Linda Hawes Clever [and three others], editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC : , : The National Academies Press, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	0-309-48518-5 0-309-48516-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 211 pages)
Collana	Consensus Study Report
Disciplina	615.836
Soggetti	Respirators (Medical equipment) Medical personnel - Health and hygiene
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Committee on the Use of Elastomeric Respirators in Health Care."
Nota di contenuto	Elastomeric respirators -- Implementing reusable elastomeric respirators in health care settings : routine and surge use -- Research and development -- Next steps and recommendations.
Sommario/riassunto	"Protecting the health and safety of health care workers is vital to the health of each of us. Preparing for and responding to a future influenza pandemic or to a sustained outbreak of an airborne transmissible disease requires a high-level commitment to respiratory protection for health care workers across the wide range of settings in which they work and the jobs that they perform. Keeping health care workers healthy is an ethical commitment both in terms of addressing the occupational risks faced by health care workers and of providing for the continuity of patient care and services needed to maintain the health of individuals and communities. During a public health emergency, challenges will arise concerning the availability of respiratory protective devices (i.e., respirators). Reusable respirators (specifically, reusable half-facepiece elastomeric respirators) are the standard respiratory protection device used in many industries, and they provide an option for use in health care that has to date not been fully explored. The durability and reusability of elastomeric respirators make them desirable for stockpiling for emergencies, where the need for large

volumes of respirators can be anticipated. However, they are used infrequently in health care. Reusable Elastomeric Respirators in Health Care explores the potential for the use of elastomeric respirators in the U.S. health care system with a focus on the economic, policy, and implementation challenges and opportunities. This report examines the practicability of elastomeric use in health care on a routine basis and during an influenza pandemic or other large aerosol-transmissible outbreak, when demand for respiratory protective devices by U.S. health care personnel may be larger than domestic supplies. The report also addresses the issues regarding emergency stockpile management of elastomeric respiratory protective devices"--Publisher's description.

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