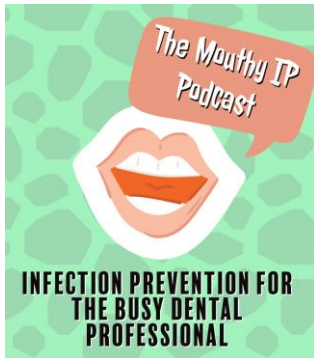




Infection Control Assessment  
and Promotion Program

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402.552.2881



## THE MOUTHY IP PODCAST

### EPISODE 1:

### DOUBLE MASKING IN DENTISTRY

**\*ALL INFORMATION  
IS ACCURATE AS OF  
THE DATE THIS  
EPISODE WAS  
RECORDED**

### **Summary:**

The Nebraska ICAP Team got a call asking about wearing a surgical mask over a NIOSH approved N-95 for their procedures.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- This is not an approved use by NIOSH for any respirator
- This strategy should only be used for emergency extended use for contingency PPE use
- More is not always better when it comes to PPE
- Face shields can replace the use of a surgical mask as droplet protection
- The use of a surgical mask over a N95 respirator does not improve the fit or seal of the respirator and may actually impact the fit causing failure
- Can be bothersome or uncomfortable and make it hard to breathe but there is no evidence of health issues arising from this
- Respirators should be handled as if the external surface is contaminated regardless of the use of a surgical mask or face shield being worn over them, there is an increased risk for personal transmission
- This may be a cost burden to some facilities by needing to use double the masks
- If the supply chain is insufficient to support conventional use of respirators, you may need to practice this to extend the life of a respirator.
- The CDC and FDA have recommended moving back to normal PPE use, 1 respirator for 1 patient encounter

### **Resource List:**

1. Considerations for Covering N95s to Extend Use: <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/06/16/covering-n95s/>
2. Optimizing N95 Respirator Supplies: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>
3. Update: FDA Recommends Transition From Use of Non-NIOSH Approved Disposable Respirators: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/update-fda-recommends-transition-use-non-niosh-approved-and-decontaminated-disposable-respirators>