N95 RESPIRATOR DECONTAMINATION REMAINS UNPROVEN AND UNSAFE

National Nurses United's Updated Review of the Scientific Literature

National Nurses United (NNU), the largest labor union for registered nurses in the United States, recently updated their evaluation of methods to decontaminate N95 respirators.
NNU's review of the available scientific literature found that:

- **No decontamination method has been shown to be both safe and effective.**
- **In fact, several methods appear to be ineffective, to damage N95 respirators, and may pose a hazard to workers wearing decontaminated N95 respirators.**

Summary of National Nurses United's Evaluation of the Scientific Literature on N95 Decontamination Methods

Decontamination Method	Criterion #1: The method must effectively inactivate SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens of concern in health care settings.	Criterion #2: The method must not degrade the protection of the N95 respirator, including filtration, face seal, and structural integrity.	Criterion #3: The method must not introduce an additional hazard to the worker wearing a decontaminated N95.
Battelle	?	X	?
STERIS	?	X	-
STERRAD	?	X	?
Dry heat	X	X	-
Autoclave	?	X	-
Steam	X	X	-
UV-C	X	X	?
Ethylene oxide	?	?	?
Ethanol/isopropyl alcohol	X	X	-
Bleach/chlorine-based solutions	?	X	X

– marks none, ? marks insufficient, X marks failed

Employers' embrace of untested and unproven decontamination methods that may damage N95 respirators or present a hazard to nurses is irresponsible and unethical. It means, in effect, that employers are experimenting on nurses and other health care workers without their consent.

Read the full review at **bit.ly/decon_report**

National Nurses United