



## TRANSITION FROM USE OF DECONTAMINATED DISPOSABLE RESPIRATORS TECH BRIEF

MAY 2021

### OVERVIEW:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued new guidance on reuse and/or decontamination of disposable respiratory protection when used for protection against COVID-19 during the pandemic. Up until recently, the FDA was allowing the reuse of disposable respirators and use of decontamination strategies because of the limited supply of suitable respiratory protection in the United States. Because there appears to be increased capacity of disposable respiratory protection adequate to meet the needs of health care personnel, the FDA is recommending that decontamination strategies be limited to situations where supplies are limited and new disposable respirators are unavailable. The FDA is also recommending that inventory of appropriate, NIOSH-approved respirators be increased in facilities so that reuse of disposable respirators is not necessary. Strategies also include use of elastomeric respirators without exhalation valves and powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs).

Additionally, the FDA has withdrawn the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) that it gave for the Battelle Decontamination System at the request of Battelle due to the change in customer needs.

For more information on FDA's recommendation, see the link below.

### AFFECTED INDUSTRIES AND GENERAL APPLICATIONS:

Hospitals, Detention Facilities, Dental Offices, Medical Offices, Assisting Living Facilities and Nursing Homes

### REFERENCE(S):

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/fda-recommends-transition-use-decontaminated-disposable-respirators-letter-health-care-personnel-and>

**WARNING:** The information contained in this Tech Brief is dated and was accurate to the best of Moldex's knowledge, on the date above. It is not meant to be comprehensive, nor is it intended to be used in place of the warning/use instructions that accompany Moldex respirators. Outside of the USA, check with all applicable and local government regulations.

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