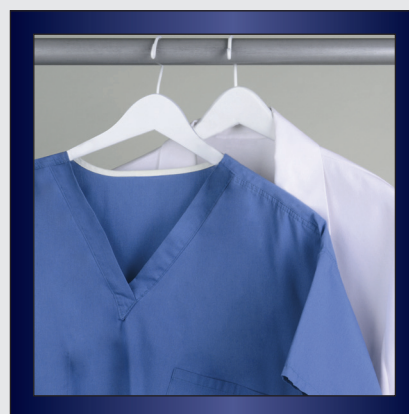




Sterilization of protective masks and clothing



In case of supply bottlenecks of protective equipment: use existing possibilities.

Protection against infection primarily involves the correct use of personal protective equipment: protective clothing, gloves, goggles, mouth and face protection. Protective equipment such as medical clothes protects during all activities with a special risk of infection.

Especially in these times we are busy to minimise the risk of infection, hygiene experts in particular. The steam sterilization plays a particularly important role in the reprocessing of medical devices.



The reprocessing of FFP2 and FFP3 masks is currently a frequently addressed topic. With steam sterilization the masks can be reprocessed according to the latest scientific recommendations and reports*. The stock turnover of protective equipment can thus be increased quickly, compensating possible delivery bottlenecks.

With optimal loading, **approx. 40 to 60 masks can be reprocessed per one sterilization cycle** (depending on mask size and loading scheme).

For reprocessing the FFP2 and FFP3 masks and for medical clothing use the steam sterilization with 121°C cycles.



Advantages of reprocessing with steam sterilization



- › Daily protection for you, your employees and customers
- › Reduced quantities and costs

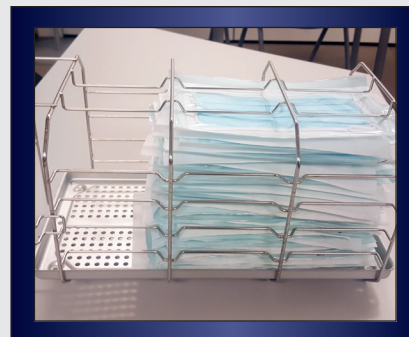


- › Rapid increase of the stock turnover
- › Avoidance of high transport costs
- › More independence from transport and delivery times
- › Sterility!



- › Sustainable protection for the environment
- › W&H as your point of contact with 130 years experience and know-how in medical technology

Important **protective measures**



Please observe the following protective measures when reprocessing the masks:

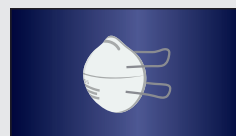
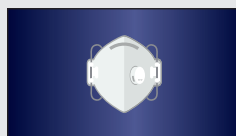
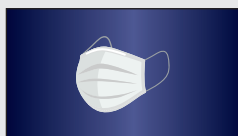
- › **Disinfect your hands** and put on fresh gloves, to remove and secure the mask (to avoid the risk of self-contamination through unconscious touching of the face).
- › **Check the mask** for intactness and cleanliness (visual inspection). Do not reprocess dirty masks.
- › **Pack the mask** in a sterilization/laminate pouch and observe the loading scheme:
 - › Place paper side to paper side and plastic side to plastic side.
 - › Place the masks horizontally or vertically into the tray in order to optimize the loading.The masks can be packed both in sterilization wrapping paper or in pouches (sterilization wrapping paper is less critical when overlapped).
- › **Note:** If the mask is not reprocessed immediately, please secure it in a suitable and well-marked container in a dry place only accessible to trained personnel.
- › **Complete** the required documentation to trace the reprocessing process.
- › **Remove** and dispose the gloves properly. Then carry out a thorough hand disinfection.



FFP2 and FFP3 masks

When reprocessing FFP2 and FFP3 masks (for single use), the filter effect and respiratory capacity is maintained during steam sterilization and thus ensures further use.

- › Steam sterilization in **121°C cycle** is suitable for FFP2 and FFP3 masks with or without an exhalation valve. Currently, it is possible to reprocess between 40 to 60 masks with one cycle process.
- › The steam-sterilized masks can be reused one to several times by the documentation of the sterilization cycles on the packaging.
- › Make sure that the reprocessed sterile masks are separated from masks that have not yet been reprocessed.
- › Please do not secure used, still moist masks in closed containers. This may lead to the proliferation of bacteria and moulds.
- › Recommendation: Sterilize the masks wrapped to maintain the sterility and avoid contamination during handling and transport.



Surgical Masks (face masks)

The widely used surgical masks (multi-layer, close-fitting mouth and nose protection) serve to prevent the transmission of possibly released infectious droplets by the carrier to another person. The mask is intended to protect against droplets from other people to be inhaled, or get on mucous membranes and wounds.

It is recommended to use surgical masks only once, but in case of urgent need (deficiency), reprocessing is possible with steam sterilization in **121°C cycle**. Please also pay attention to the protective measures/handling as described above.



Protective clothing

The practice clothing does not offer any special protection and must be changed daily or in case of visible dirt or contamination. If protective clothing is worn as re-usable, especially at treatments with aerosol containing pathogens, contamination occurs and the corresponding hygienic preparation (thermal or chemothermal) is required.

This is where the universal applicability of class B sterilizers comes into play: Put your scrubs into the sterilizer – **program B-Universal 121°C cycle** – for killing microorganism!*

*Only use dry sterile items.

Note: For medical (surgical) clothing, a distinction is made between high performance and standard performance products, please refer to the standard EN 13795 1-3.



More information about our products, solutions and tips:
wh.com, infectionprevention

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