



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
P.O. Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

January 11, 2021

ALTSA: AFH #2021-001
AFH N95 RESPIRATOR DISTRIBUTION AND FIT TESTING

Dear Adult Family Home Provider:

To partner in assisting your facility to protect staff and residents from COVID-19 infection, DSHS will send N95 respirators (masks) to each Adult Family Home (AFH) that has a client with an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP). The department will identify clients with AGP needs as captured in the CARE assessment and service plan. Each shipment will contain 30 respirators and important instructions.

Adult Family Homes that do not have a client with an AGP will receive a one-time shipment of ten N95 masks to assist AFHs in fit-testing their employees.

In addition, a report will be generated monthly to determine additional AFHs that recently accepted a client with an AGP and a one-time shipment of 30 respirators will be sent to these AFHs. A report will also be run to capture new AFHs with no clients with AGPs and a shipment of 10 respirators will be sent to them.

DSHS will provide a one-time payment of \$618 to each AFH serving a state funded resident with an AGP during the period of November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 (as captured in the CARE assessment and service plan). The purpose of this one-time payment is to assist with the cost of medical evaluation and fit testing for N95 mask use.

For the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, AFH providers that have not already received a one-time payment, as described in the previous paragraph, will receive a one-time payment of \$309 to be used towards the cost of medical evaluation and fit-testing for the N95 mask use.

Please carefully review all instructions included with the shipment before using these respirators.

In addition to the respirators, each shipment will include the following instructional documents:

- a. ["Fit Testing Disclaimer"](#)
A reminder of the legal requirement that all workers must be fit-tested before wearing N95.
- b. ["Fit Testing 101 for Adult Family Homes"](#)
A guide to important and legally-required preparations for respirator use.
- c. ["Fit Testing Location Guide for Adult Family Homes"](#)
An informational aide to find fit testing services near each Washington County.
- d. ["Frequently asked questions about respiratory protection"](#)
Answers common questions about fit testing and facial hair.

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e. [“How to put on and take off a disposable respirator”](#)

Instructions to safely don (put on), seal-check, and doff (take off) a respirator.

These respirators are intended for your staff to use during any task that requires them under Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. Please review the following materials to help you decide when and where a respirator is required.

- a. [“Which Mask for Which Task”](#) – (L&I)
- b. [“Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers”](#) – (L&I)
- c. [“Personal Protective Equipment Q&A”](#) – (CDC)

Adult family homes must continue to purchase necessary personal protective equipment. In the event of an urgent shortage, notify your local emergency management agency (EMA). If the EMA cannot support your facility, contact AL TSA Incident Management team at: ppebranch.ltcimt@dshs.wa.gov and request an emergency 7-day supply. Information about obtaining PPE and contact information is linked below.

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/residential-care-services/ppe-facilities>

Under L&I and CDC guidance, the following tasks require an N95 respirator:

- Any “aerosol-generating procedure” such as:
 - Treatments that cause a patient to cough (sputum induction)
 - CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)
 - Using an AMBU bag in an emergency (manual ventilation)
 - Using a nebulizer (nebulizer administration)
 - Fitting someone for an oxygen mask or nasal cannula (delivery of high-flow oxygen)
- Cleaning an area recently occupied by someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- Care for a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Please contact ppebranch.ltcimt@dshs.wa.gov with questions about logistics and delivery of PPE. For any other questions, please contact:

- HCS questions: Natalie Lehl, Natalie.Lehl@dshs.wa.gov
- DDA questions: Kelly Hampton, Kelly.Hampton@dshs.wa.gov

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety.

Sincerely,



Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Transforming Lives”