



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

July 8, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-039  
AL TSA: ALF #2021-038  
AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-034  
AL TSA: ESF #2021-034  
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-035  
AL TSA: NH #2021-054

**UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

This letter is to notify you of information recently provided by the Department of Health (DOH).

1. DOH moved all COVID-19 Healthcare Infection Prevention materials to one location on the DOH website. Now, regardless of the healthcare setting, all COVID-19 infection prevention guidance for healthcare settings can be found here:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/InfectionPrevention>
2. Beginning in January 2021, most health care facilities and agencies in Washington are eligible for free online respiratory medical evaluation and on site (or mobile) respirator fit testing. The DOH fit testing webpage has been updated with new information. County assignments have changed for fit testing providers.  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionalsandFacilities/HealthcareAssociatedInfections/FitTesting>
3. In May 2021, CDC updated recommendations on use of non-NIOSH approved respirators. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC allowed the use of non-NIOSH approved respirators while supplies were limited. As the supply chain for respirators is returning to normal, FDA and CDC have revised recommendations to allow only NIOSH approved respirators when respiratory protection is needed. For example, use only a NIOSH approved N95 respirators when caring for patients/residents/clients who are known or suspected to have COVID-19 and for aerosol generating procedures. Healthcare workers may continue to wear non-NIOSH approved KN95 and other respirators as source control.

**What this means to you, effective immediately:**

- Use only NIOSH approved N95 respirators when respiratory protection is needed
- Healthcare workers may continue to wear non-NIOSH approved KN95 and other respirators as source control only

**For more information, please see:**

[FDA's recommendation to transition from use of Non-NIOSH approved respirators](#)  
[FDA's considerations for selecting respirators for your healthcare facility](#)  
[CDC's strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators](#)

**To check your respirators**

[FDA's Appendix A - authorized, Non-NIOSH approved respirators manufactured in China](#)  
[FDA's respirator models removed from Appendix A \(Respirator Models No Longer Authorized\)](#)

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[FDA's Exhibit 1 – authorized imported, Non-NIOSH disposable filtering facepiece respirators \(FFR\)](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact [Katherine.Ander@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Katherine.Ander@dshs.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*