



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

November 24, 2020

ALTSA: AFH #2020-065
AFH N95 RESPIRATOR DISTRIBUTION

Dear Adult Family Home Provider:

To help protect you and your residents from COVID-19 infection, DSHS will send N95 respirators (masks) to your Adult Family Home (FH) in mid-December. Each shipment will contain 90 respirators and important instructions. **Please carefully review all instructions included with the shipment before using these respirators.**

Each shipment will include:

1. 50 Outdoor Research-brand respirators
2. 40 BYD-brand respirators
3. 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.
 - 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.

1. ["Which Mask for Which Task"](#) – (L&I)
2. ["Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Employers"](#) – (L&I)
3. ["Personal Protective Equipment Q&A"](#) – (CDC)

This is a one-time shipment by DSHS. 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 you, facilities you may notify DSHS and request an emergency 7-day supply. Information about obtaining PPE and contact information is linked below.

1. ["PPE for Long-Term Care Facilities"](#) – (ALTSA)

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
- Work in close personal contact with others for 10 or more minutes at a time.
- Potential for contact with body fluids such as vomit, urine, stool, or blood
- Care for a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. Please contact ppebranch.ltcimt@dshs.wa.gov with questions about logistics and delivery of PPE. Please contact your local RCS Field Manager or your Local Health Jurisdiction with other questions.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring
Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “*Transforming Lives*”