



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

May 14, 2021

ALTSA: AFH #2021-028  
ALF #2021-028  
NH #2021-038  
CCRSS # 2021-024  
ESF # 2021-025

**BYD DE2322 Respirators**

Dear Administrator/Provider,

During the past year the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) provided shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Long Term Care Facilities. The PPE shipment included BYD DE2322 N95 respirators.

BYD is a Chinese company that makes respirators. The BYD Company sent respirators to the United States to help with the pandemic. The BYD respirators were approved for use pending National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approval. On June 9, 2020 the NIOSH approval was granted. DSHS obtained and distributed BYD DE2322 N95 respirators before and after NIOSH approval.

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has learned that NIOSH is investigating a report of loose straps on some BYD DE2322 N95 respirators. NIOSH has not disqualified this mask for use at this time.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control recently updated their “Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators” guidance. This guidance says “The strategy of using non-NIOSH approved respirators developed by manufacturers who are not NIOSH-approval holders was removed.” For more information, please visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html).

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends workers not use the BYD DE2322 respirators that do not include the NIOSH stamp. The NIOSH stamp is located on the outer front of the respirator in block letters (see photo).

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

- Look at your PPE supply
- If you find BYD DE2322 respirators, look for the NIOSH stamp
- If the NIOSH stamp is not printed on the respirator, do not use while caring for residents/clients with COVID-19



**REMINDER: ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR TRAINING FOR INSPECTING AND WEARING PPE**

- Inspect your respirator before every donning. This includes inspecting the filtering fabric, head straps, staples, and metal nose clip.
- Before donning, check the elastic straps to ensure they do not slide under the staple. If they do slide, do not adjust these straps and do not use this respirator. Head straps are not adjustable on the BYD, 3M, and other N95 respirators.
- If the head straps on any N95 respirator are not secured well to the respirator, it is defective. Do not use the respirator and discard it immediately. Use a different respirator with well secured straps.
- Do not use any PPE that appears defective upon inspection or is not functioning as intended.
- Report all concerns about PPE/respirator function or fit to your supervisor or field manager.

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

**OR**

If you have any questions, please contact **Katherine Ander**, Interim RCS Infection Preventionist [rcsrpp@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:rcsrpp@dshs.wa.gov) 360-742-6037

Sincerely,



For Mike Anbesse

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*