

# COVID-19 Voluntary Use of N95 Respirators 1.07.21 1444

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Based on updated MIOSHA rules and CDC recommendations, all team members performing AGPs for any patient or caring for COVID-19 positive patients or in prolonged close contact with suspected cases of COVID-19 are now required to wear an N95 respirator or PAPR along with other COVID-19 related PPE. Prolonged close contact is defined as within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more.

Team members who do not fall into this required use category are not at significant risk of being exposed to SARS-CoV-2 during their typical work activities, and Spectrum Health-supplied isolation masks continue to be appropriate for routine care of non-COVID and non-suspected COVID patients who are not receiving an AGP. Spectrum Health is allowing team members to voluntarily wear an N95 respirator during work activities if the N95 respirator is supplied from home and the following requirements are met:

- Team members voluntarily wearing N95 respirators may not use a Spectrum Health-supplied N95 as the N95 respirator supply is reserved for team members that require respirators based on high risk of exposure.
- Any filtering facepiece respirators, or FFRs, (e.g., N95, N99, N100) from home must meet the following criteria:
  - Be [NIOSH-approved](#)
  - Capable of source control (i.e., respirators can NOT have an exhalation valve)
  - Does not cause a hazard to the team member
- Team member supplied N95 respirators must be approved prior to use. To submit your respirator for approval, send an email with your name, work location, a photo of the respirator, manufacturer name, and model number of the respirator you are requesting to wear to [covid19@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:covid19@spectrumhealth.org)
  - Upon approval, the team member will receive Appendix D from MIOSHA Part 451 (Respiratory Protection) with information about voluntary respirator use.
  - Respirators from home should NOT be used until emailed approval is received.
- Team members that bring in their own respirator are responsible for reading and following the instructions by the manufacturer of the use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings (including use with regards to facial hair) regarding the respirator's limitations.

Medical clearance and fit testing are not required for the voluntary use of N95 Respirators or other FFRs. Please see the PPE from Home Guidance document for examples of acceptable and unacceptable N95 respirators from home. If you have any questions, please email them to [covid19@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:covid19@spectrumhealth.org)

Spectrum Health relies upon evidence-based guidelines from CDC, WHO, SHEA, MIOSHA, and Joint Commission guidelines for the development of recommendations as they relate to COVID-19.

#### References:

[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98455---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455---,00.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>