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POLICY AND PROCEDURE	
SUBJECT/TITLE:	N95 Respirator Protocol
Distributed to:	Nursing Staff
HEALTH COMMISSIONER	Michael E. Martin, M.D.
APPROVAL DATE:	2/27/2020
REVIEW FREQUENCY:	5 years
BOARD APPROVAL DATE:	N/A
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N95 Respirator Mask Use Protocol

Purpose: Public health nurses may need to use N95 respirators when working with clients who may have communicable diseases transmitted through the airborne route. This protocol outlines necessary procedures for safe and appropriate use of N95 respirators.

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

1. N95 respirators are only to be used in situations when they are necessary, as determined by the Health Commissioner or Director of Nursing, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommendations.
2. Employees must undergo a respirator fit test, including evaluation of a medical questionnaire completed by each employee, to determine the employee's ability to use a N95 respirator. Employees must pass a respirator fit test before they are authorized to use an N95 respirator. The Director of Nursing will make arrangements for the fit testing and training, at no expense to the employee.
3. Employees must also receive training in the appropriate use of the N95 respirator and other personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for airborne precautions before they are authorized to use an N95 respirator. At the conclusion of the training and before use of the respirator, each employee must demonstrate
 - When and why the use of the respirator is required.
 - How improper fit, usage, or maintenance can compromise the respirator's effectiveness.
 - The limitations and capabilities of the respirator.
 - How to use the respirator.
 - How to properly don, doff, use, and check the seals of the respirator.
 - The proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the respirator.
 - How to properly don, doff, use, and dispose of other PPE.
4. Subsequent respirator fit testing and training must be repeated annually, unless that requirement has been waived by CDC, Ohio Department of Health, or OSHA due to a public health emergency.
5. NIOSH certified respirators will be selected and provided to employees who may be exposed to respiratory hazards. The N95 respirator may be medical or industrial. Use of additional PPE may be required, such as isolation gowns, face masks, goggles, bonnets, shoe covers, gloves, etc., as directed

by the Health Commissioner and/or Director of Nursing, according to CDC and/or ODH recommendations.

6. The N95 respirators must be discarded after the expiration date, or 5 years after the manufacture date if an expiration date is not provided.
7. N95 respirators are not permitted to be worn by employees who have (1) facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function, or (2) any condition that interferes with face-to-facepiece seal or valve function.
8. Respirators will be stored in an area that will protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excess moisture, and damaging chemicals.
9. All respirators will be inspected before each use.
10. If any employees have questions or concerns about using an N95 respirator, they should contact their supervisor.

Approved by:



Michael E. Martin, M.D.
Health Commissioner

date 3-2-2020



Tracey L. Henderson, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing

date 2/27/2020