



OFFICE OF HEALTHY HOMES AND
LEAD HAZARD CONTROL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-3000

March 13, 2020

Dear OHHLHC Grantees:

As news of the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, we are reaching out to let you know that the health and well-being of our grantees and the families you serve through your grants is a high priority for us.

Our Office is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and state, tribal, and local health authorities. We encourage you and your staff, to this as well, as we assume you are already doing.

As an example of our monitoring CDC guidance, you may want to consider the attached guidance received today from CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on N-95 respirators. You may want to forward it to your lead hazard control contractors for them to consider when they encounter a shortage of these respirators for their work under our grant or anticipating shortly encountering such a shortage.

Rest assured that we understand the complexity and sensitivity of the situation and will work with you to address any disruption to your grant operations, including any necessary flexibility to your production schedule.

Please take precautions to protect yourself, your staff, your and their families, and the families you serve under your grant. We are here to help you throughout this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yolanda Brown".

Yolanda Brown
Programs Division Director
Lead and Healthy Homes Programs Division

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Protection of healthcare workers is a priority. There is guidance on the CDC's [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) website](#) that offers a series of strategies or options to optimize supplies of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators (commonly called "N95 respirators") in healthcare settings when there is limited supply. The [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) document includes considerations for use by federal, state, and local public health officials, respiratory protection program managers, occupational health service leaders, infection prevention and control program leaders, and other leaders in healthcare settings who are responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for preventing pathogen transmission in healthcare settings.

Additional resources include:

[Checklist for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response](#)

This checklist is intended to help healthcare facilities prioritize the implementation of the strategies presented in the Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators guidance.

[Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response](#)

In times of increased demand and decreased supply, consideration can be made to use the N95s listed in the guidance past their manufacturer-designated shelf life when responding to COVID-19.

This preliminary information from the NIOSH study suggests certain N95 models beyond their manufacturer-designated shelf life will be protective. CDC recommends that N95s that have exceeded their manufacturer-designated shelf life should be used only as outlined in the Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators.

[Sign up for the COVID-19 newsletter](#) to receive information on the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Please share with your colleagues and networks.

We are also attaching some additional flyers from CDC on the coronavirus.