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PIN 21-10-ASC

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Ley Arquisola*
LEY ARQUISOLA, R.N., M.S.N.
Acting Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **N95 RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING RESOURCES FOR ADULT AND SENIOR CARE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 21-10-ASC alerts Adult and Senior Care program licensees of the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (also known as Cal/OSHA) standards for Respirator Fit Testing, and other related requirements.

Overview

The California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (also known as Cal/OSHA), enforces a standard on the use of respiratory protection found in [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 8, Section 5144](#). As a result, in any workplace where respirators are necessary to protect the health of the employee or wherever respirators are required by the employer, employers are required to comply with this standard. NIOSH-certified respirators, including those known as N95 respirators, are commonly used in adult and senior care facilities to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

[CCR, Title 8, Section 5144](#) includes, among other requirements, a requirement for an employer to develop and implement a written respiratory protection program with required worksite-specific procedures and elements for required respirator use, including, but not limited to, respirator Fit Testing. Licensees should review these

Cal/OSHA respiratory protection requirements in full, as they impact your business and the services you provide. If you have any questions regarding Fit Testing in general or Fit Testing for your facility, please contact your local Regional Office for assistance.

What is Fit Testing

[CCR, Title 8, Section 5144](#) defines “Fit Test” as the use of a protocol to qualitatively or quantitatively evaluate the fit of a particular size or model of respirator on an individual in order to ensure that the respirator fits well enough to provide a reliable degree of protection to the wearer.

Fit Testing includes:

- a “qualitative Fit Test (QLFT)”, which means a pass/fail fit test to assess the adequacy of respirator fit that relies on the individual’s response to the test agent, and
- a “quantitative Fit Test (QNFT)”, which means an assessment of the adequacy of respirator fit by numerically measuring the amount of leakage into the respirator.

Fit Testing is required for the use of N95 respirators, as well as other types of tight-fitting respirators, and should be “administered using an OSHA-accepted QLFT or QNFT protocol” as specified in [CCR, Title 8, Section 5144\(f\)\(5\)](#).

Resources

- [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources](#) including:
 - [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(CCR, Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 7, Sections 3205-3205.4\)](#)
- [List of Vendors Who Report Available Supplies of N95 Disposable Respirators](#)
 - Your Adult and Senior Care Regional Office may also be able to provide N95 Respirators and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

If you have any questions about this PIN, please contact your local [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).