
COVID-19 – Respirators and Visitors

March 4, 2020

Respirator Shortage

Respiratory protection is a part of recommended infection control measures against COVID-19. Currently, there is an increased demand for respirators worldwide and decreased supply. A recent announcement indicated the release of millions of N95 respirators to address statewide shortages.

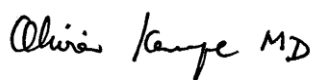
- At this time, the release and distribution of those respirators are under control of state officials. Sacramento County does not currently control mask supply and distribution.
- Healthcare facilities experiencing a shortage **must** complete and submit three items:
 - [Situation Report](#)
 - [Resource Request](#) (email to MHOAC@sacounty.net or fax to 916-854-9211)
 - Follow-Up Questionnaire - separate attachment (include with resource request)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#) including [utilizing certain respirator models](#) beyond the indicated shelf life.

Visitors Management in the Health Care Setting

In an effort to reduce potential risks of exposure and transmission in health care facilities consider re-evaluating visitation policies and control movement within the facility. Consider:

- Instructing all visitors to follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette precautions while in the common areas of the facility. Provide instruction, before visitors enter patients' or residents' rooms, on hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of PPE according to current facility policy while in the patient's room.
- Screening visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness before entering the healthcare facility. Exclude symptomatic visitors from visiting patients or residents.
- Limiting visitations to vulnerable patients or residents (e.g. elderly and immunocompromised) to a maximum of two visitors at a time.
- Maintaining a log of all visitors who entered the patient or resident's room.

Sincerely,



Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer