



# #protectMEseniors



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**Dear Member:**

## **CDC Updates Guidance on Non-NIOSH Approved Respirator Use**

**Situational update as of May 2021:** The supply and availability of NIOSH-approved respirators have increased significantly over the last several months. Healthcare facilities should not be using crisis capacity strategies at this time and should promptly resume conventional practices. Check the [NIOSH Certified Equipment List](#) to identify all NIOSH-approved respirators.

Healthcare facilities should stop purchasing non-NIOSH approved respirators for use as respiratory protection and consider using any that have been stored for source control where respiratory protection is not needed. Respirators that were previously used and decontaminated should not be stored. We do not know the long term stability of non-NIOSH approved respirators and respirators that have been decontaminated, and if these will be recommended for use in the future. Healthcare facilities should return to using only NIOSH-approved respirators where needed.

In addition, the FDA has also posted a letter about transitioning from non-NIOSH-approved and decontaminated disposable respirators:

- <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/update-fda-recommends-transition-use-non-niosh-approved-and-decontaminated-disposable-respirators>

## **Notes from Today's Medical Director/Clinician Call 06/01/2021, MHCA to Discontinue Tuesday COVID-19 Briefings**

As noted on the call today, given the relative stabilization of COVID-related cases and issues, Maine DHHS will be moving the frequency of the MD/Clinician calls to once a month, on the first Tuesday of each month. Individuals who were already on the listserv for this meeting should have received an updated Outlook invite to reflect that, with calls now scheduled monthly through the end of 2021. Maine DHHS will move the frequency up or down depending on how needs evolve over the coming months.

In light of this, the weekly **MHCA COVID-19 Update that publishes on Tuesdays will now be included in the Thursday weekly newsletter under the COVID-19 section of the blog.** If information is time sensitive and we feel members need to have it sooner, we will send out a special bulletin through our COVID listserv.

We truly appreciate all our members efforts throughout the last 15 months and the fact that we are able to discuss the reduction in frequency of this update is testament to the work you have all done to combat COVID-19.

## **Maine CDC, OADS and DLC Residential Care COVID 19 Bi-Weekly Meetings**

MHCA reminds members that these calls remain every other Wednesday at 1 PM, the next one falling on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. [Attached](#) please find the slide deck from last week's call.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/8632543850?pwd=ZEErTkMtMSkZpNGc5SG56SjFmSUpWUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 254 3850

Passcode: .uA\$8&Gv

Meeting ID: 863 254 3850

\*\*Please submit questions prior to the meeting using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7LQPC9Z>

Sincerely,

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