




Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

Memo

To: DJJOY Facility Staff

From: Felicia A. B. Reid, Esq., Acting Deputy Commissioner
Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth 

Date: February 23, 2021

Re: **Access to Fit Testing for OCFS-issued N95 Respirators**

As stated in memorandum, *Wearing N95 Respirator or Surgical Type Face Mask in the Workplace*, dated April 8, 2020, facility staff are permitted to bring and wear their own N95 respirators. DJJOY has further revised PPE guidance to include provisions for the use of **OCFS-issued and fit tested** N95 respirators.

[Access to Fit Testing for OCFS-Issued N95 Respirators](#)

Staff will be notified whether they can access N95 fit testing given their specific duties. OCFS will then offer and coordinate fit testing for these staff prior to the use of OCFS-issued N95 respirators.

Use of N95 respirators is based on an assessment of particular job duties **and** the risk of potential exposure to contagion. OCFS has identified staff duties which require access to N95 respirators, detailed in *Guidelines for the Use of Personal Protective Equipment / Quarantine and Isolation Protocol*, revised and dated February 23, 2021.

To ensure the safe and efficient use of the N95 respirator, staff whose duties make them eligible for N95 deployment, must complete training and fit testing before being given an OCFS-issued respirator. OCFS has identified DJJOY staff who will be trained to conduct and certify the fit testing. Any staff whose duties make them eligible for access to fit testing will be notified and offered an appointment for a fit test.

[Fit Testing Parameters](#)

Fit testing will include the completion of a confidential medical questionnaire, followed by an onsite and in-person fit test, then training on the proper use and limitations of the N95. Staff should be aware that **only** if they pass the medical evaluation will they receive an OCFS-issued N95 respirator. Staff who do not pass the medical evaluation remain required to wear all the requisite PPE to do their duties, per DJJOY guidelines.

In addition to the medical evaluation, for safe and effective use, N95 respirators require a good facial fit. This requires the wearer to be sufficiently clean shaven of facial hair along the sealing area of the respirator, both during the fit testing and during the use of the N95 at work. More information will be provided, along with instructions for fit testing, to all staff whose duties make them eligible for access to N95 fit testing.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation with this matter.

cc: J. Tomassone R. Strauser
R. MacGiffert J. Greening
C. Hernandez Facility Directors
Facility Managers Facility Assistant Directors
J. Horne