STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

RCS MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

R21-051 – INFORMATION
May 14, 2021

TO: RCS Regional Administrators
RCS Field Managers
RCS Management Team

FROM: Mike Anbesses, Director
Residential Care Services
A. Abbott For Mike Anbesse 5/14/2021

SUBJECT: **BYD DE2322 RESPIRATORS**

PURPOSE: To inform staff about a NIOSH investigation into BYD DE2322 N95 respirators related to reports of loose straps. In addition, this is to inform staff that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently updated their "Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators" guidance

BACKGROUND:

- During the past year the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff. The PPE included BYD DE2322 N95 respirators.
- BYD is a Chinese company that makes respirators. The BYD Company sent respirators to the United States to help with the pandemic. The BYD respirators were approved for use pending National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approval. On June 9, 2020 the NIOSH approval was granted.
- DSHS obtained and distributed BYD DE2322 N95 respirators before and after NIOSH approval.

WHAT'S NEW, CHANGED, OR CLARIFIED:

- The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has learned that NIOSH is investigating a report of loose straps on some BYD DE2322 N95 respirators. NIOSH has not disqualified this mask for use at this time.
- Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control recently updated their "Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators" guidance. This guidance says "The strategy of using non-NIOSH approved respirators developed by manufacturers who are not NIOSH-approval holders was removed." For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html.
- The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends workers not use the BYD DE2322 respirators that do not include the NIOSH stamp. The NIOSH stamp is located on the outer front of the respirator in block letters (see photo under related references).

ACTION:

Staff will:

- Look at your personal PPE supply:
  - If you find BYD DE2322 respirators, look for the NIOSH stamp
  - If the NIOSH stamp is not printed on the respirator, do not use while caring for residents/clients with COVID-19
- ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR TRAINING FOR INSPECTING AND WEARING PPE:
  - Before donning, check the elastic straps to ensure they do not slide under the staple. If they do slide, do not adjust these straps and do not use this respirator. Head straps are not adjustable on the BYD, 3M, and other N95 respirators.

RELATED REFERENCES: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html

ATTACHMENTS: Dear Provider Letters

CONTACTS: RCS Policy Unit at RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov