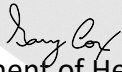




OKLAHOMA

FROM: Gary Cox, Commissioner 
Oklahoma State Department of Health

DATE: March 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Authorization to utilize approved KN-95 respirators

Filtering facepiece N95 respirators (FFR) are a key item of personal protective equipment for health care personnel and first responders in both their normal operations and the COVID19 response. Medical-use N95s approved by both NIOSH and the FDA are in extremely short supply nationally, so the CDC has authorized the use of NIOSH-approved industrial-type N95 respirators in this circumstance. Unfortunately, these are also in short supply, so the CDC has now stated that FFR approved by other countries using methods similar to those of NIOSH may be used.

KN-95 respirators manufactured in China may be approved by NIOSH or under performance standards equivalent to those of NIOSH, and there is no functional difference between N95 and KN-95 FFR. These respirators are readily available and are being procured. ***Properly fit-tested KN-95s may be used with the same confidence as N95 devices.***

This memorandum authorizes distribution and use of certified KN-95 FFR for use under the same conditions as specified for N95 FFR through July 31, 2020. Extension beyond that date will be determined as conditions develop.

Questions regarding KN-95 certifications should be forwarded to Dr. David Johnson, CIH at David-Johnson@ouhsc.edu or by text at 405-205-3085.