



REGULATORY/ MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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March 20, 2020

To: Orange County EMS Providers

FROM: Gagandeep Grewal, MD – OCEMS Associate Medical Director

RE: Use of Expired HY8510 N-95 Mask as a Simple Surgical Mask

The worsening COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a scarce supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), including all types of facemasks. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to use expired masks that were NIOSH-approved, which Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) has been distributing. In addition, OCEMS has a supply of N-95 masks Model # HY8510 which had the NIOSH approval rescinded in 2014 at the request of the manufacturer. Therefore, as of 2014, these masks could not and cannot be used as NIOSH-approved N-95 respirators.

Due to the current circumstances, OCEMS is releasing these masks to be used as a simple physical barrier mask akin to a simple surgical mask (not a surgical respirator). Users must understand that these masks cannot be used as N-95 masks or respirators, and must accept any potential risk associated with unapproved devices. These masks should be used as a last resort after all other supplies have been exhausted. Please contact OCEMS with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Gagandeep S. Grewal'.

Gagandeep S. Grewal, MD
Associate Medical Director
Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency

CS:tm#3717