CDC Updates Strategies for Optimizing Supply of N95 Respirators – September 16, 2021

Summary of Recent Changes

For Contingency Capacity Strategies:

Beyond anticipated shortages, added that increased feasibility and practicality may also be considered in decisions to implement extended use for healthcare personnel (HCP) who sequentially caring for a large volume of patients with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2, including those cohorted in a SARS-CoV-2 unit, those placed in quarantine, and residents on units impacted during a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak.

For Crisis Capacity Strategies:

- Added information about FDA’s reassurance of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in July 2021. FDA removed filtering facepiece respirators that are NIOSH-approved but have since passed the manufacturers’ recommended shelf life and removed decontaminated respirators from the scope of authorization.
- Added clarification and example scenarios for limited re-use.
- Deleted the strategy, to exclude HCP at increased risk for severe illness from SARS-CoV-2 infection from contact with patients with known or suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection.