

HQBOR 10/7.13-C



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

MAR 13 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents
All Directorate Chiefs
FROM: Rodney S. Scott
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol
SUBJECT: N-95 Respirator Use and Facial Hair

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The purpose of this memorandum is to serve as a reminder to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees to take the necessary precautions in the workplace due to the risks associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which the World Health Organization (WHO) declared as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Maintaining CBP's essential functions and services due to the pandemic, emerging infectious diseases or adversarial biological attacks require considerations beyond the traditional scope of continuity planning. The safety and wellness of our personnel, and of the people in our care and custody are our top priority. It is CBP's policy to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including respiratory safeguards, to employees when necessary.

The N-95 Respirator is an air purifying respirator certified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The respirator has a filter efficiency rate of 95 percent or greater against oil-free particulate aerosols. It can filter against contaminants, which may include: tuberculosis (TB); particulates; viruses; bacteria; dust; fumes; and mist. In addition, fit testing is conducted to achieve a proper fit. Correct usage and maintenance are also integral to the respirator's performance.

Note that the N-95 Respirator will filter particulates only, and **will not** protect Border Patrol Agents (BPAs) against gases, vapors, and oil mists (chemicals). BPAs should also be cognizant that the presence of certain styles of facial hair **will** render the mask less effective. Other impediments such as facial scars, pseudo-folliculitis barbae, wearing jewelry, and/or the use of headgear, may also interfere with the integrity of the respirator's seal. BPAs with neatly trimmed facial hair may undergo fit testing, with the understanding that they will be required to be clean-shaven if they do not pass the initial fit test.

Employees must complete the appropriate fit testing, including an online medical evaluation, prior to wearing the equipment to ascertain if it interferes with the seal in accordance with the manufacturer's protocols for donning the N-95 Respirator. In the event of an immediate and

urgent need to fit test BPAs to prepare for possible mandatory N-95 Respirator usage, the requirement for an online medical evaluation prior to fit testing may be waived at the discretion of management. In the event that an employee requests either a medical or religious exception to said requirement, the employee must submit a formal request through their chain of command. Employees that receive an approved exemption, should note that they assume a level of risk associated with their personal health and safety.

Management will make reasonable efforts to inform employees of anticipated respirator use, such as fit tests, as far in advance as possible. This would allow the employee a reasonable amount of time to comply with these protective policies and procedures. Upon management direction, in certain situations, such as alien processing and detention, BPAs will be required to use the N-95 Respirator and other appropriate PPE.

Please ensure that this memorandum is disseminated to all sectors and briefed at musters.

Additional information regarding the Respiratory Protection Program can be located in Chapter 26 of the *HB 5200-08B Occupational Safety and Health Handbook, dated September 2012*.

For any questions concerning this topic, contact the USBP HQ Policy Division at (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
To: TFO PORT DIRECTOR APD
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Novel coronavirus muster for CBP personnel
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 9:17:58 AM
Attachments: PROAHEDR Novel coronavirus (12) China (HU) new fatalityhealthcare workers WHO.msg
CBP Muster Pneumonia Wuhan China 011120.pdf
Importance: High

Novel coronavirus muster for CBP personnel

“It is highly recommended that this muster is delivered jointly, with CDC Quarantine Officers, at locations where coordination is feasible. Further, in addition to exposed travelers, CBP personnel should be aware of a traveler’s potential to have diagnostic specimens e.g. tissue culture, blood samples, etc in personal or hand-carry baggage. Strongly advise the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when conducting examinations of travelers’ baggage.”

Please muster this at your briefings this week and weekend and send to your frontline employees by email for further reading. We have no CDC representatives physically located at our ports in Arizona. Our CDC contact is at the San Diego office.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
Epidemiologist/ Quarantine Public Health Officer
CDC/DGMO/ San Diego Quarantine Station

24/7 CDC Duty Officer 1-866-638-9753

Further recommendations are below.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
*Supervisory Program Manager – Agriculture
Tucson Field Office
Office of Field Operations
U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

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(c)

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: 21 Jan 2020 15:40:08 +0000
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> Novel coronavirus (12): China (HU) new fatality, healthcare workers, WHO

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (12): CHINA (HUBEI) NEW FATALITY, HEALTHCARE WORKERS, WHO

A ProMED-mail post
<<http://www.promedmail.org>>
ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

- In this update:
- [1] China (Wuhan): update, 4th fatality, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission
 - [2] China Country update: government of China
 - [3] Other provinces confirming cases: Shanghai, Anhui
 - [4] Cases in healthcare workers, person-to-person transmission
 - [5] WHO to convene IHR emergency committee meeting
 - [6] Other countries testing suspected cases

[1] China (Wuhan): update, 4th fatality, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission
Date: Tue 21 Jan 2020 04:18:02 CST
Source: Wuhan Municipal Health Commission [in Chinese, machine trans., edited]
<<http://wjw.wuhan.gov.cn/front/web/showDetail/2020012109083>>

>From 12:00 on [19 Jan 2020] to 14:00 on [20 Jan 2020?], there was one death, no discharged cases, and no new cases.

The deceased, an 89-year-old male, developed symptoms on [13 Jan 2020], was admitted to the hospital for severe breathing difficulties on [18 Jan 2020], and died on [19 Jan 2020] at 23:39. The patient had underlying diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease, and frequent ventricular premature beats.

As of 24:00 on [19 Jan 2020], 198 cases of pneumonia of new coronavirus infection have been reported in our city [Wuhan], 25 cases have been cured, and 4 cases have been discharged. Currently, 169 patients are still being treated in the hospital, of which 35 are seriously ill and 9 are critically ill. They are all under isolation treatment at designated medical institutions in Wuhan.

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Communicated by:
ProMED-mail (b)(6)

[This is now the 4th death reported associated with infection with the 2019-nCoV. High risk factors for a severe disease presentation included his age and history of pre-existing chronic comorbidities. It would be of interest to learn if those individuals described as in serious condition and those in critical condition have significant high risk factors such as increased age, and pre-existing co-morbidities that might pre-dispose to impaired immunity. - Mod.MPP]

[2] China Country update: government of China
Date: Mon 20 Jan 2020 19:29 CST
Source: Government of China [in Chinese, mach. trans., abridged, edited]
<http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-01/20/content_5471057.htm>

In recent [weeks?], an epidemic of infectious pneumonia transmitted by a new type of coronavirus has been reported from Wuhan, Hubei Province, and other regions. As of 18:00 on [20 Jan 2020], a total of 224 cases were reported in China, including 217 confirmed cases (198 in Wuhan, 5 in Beijing, and 14 in Guangdong Province); 7 suspected cases (in Sichuan Province) 2 cases, 1 case in Yunnan Province, 2 cases in Shanghai, 1 case in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and 1 case in Shandong Province). One confirmed case was reported in Japan, 2 confirmed cases were reported in Thailand, and one confirmed case was reported in South Korea.

[There is a discussion on the need for increased surveillance and infection control measures with the coming holiday season, when there will be a massive population movement in the country. There is also mention of the need for dissemination of information on preventive measures and of scientific information, at both the national as well a provincial levels. - Mod.MPP]

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Communicated by:
ProMED-mail (b)(6)

[The announcement above contains information on the number of confirmed cases in the country with cases in Wuhan, Beijing and Guangdong, but also of suspected cases elsewhere (Sichuan, Yunnan, Shanghai, Guangxi Autonomous region, and Shandong provinces), as well as cases in Japan, Thailand, and South Korea).

A map of China showing provinces can be found at:
<<https://www.chinadiscovery.com/china-maps/china-provincial-map.html>>.
- Mod.MPP]

[3] Other provinces confirming cases: Shanghai, Anhui
Date: Tue 21 Jan 2020
Source: Sino Weibei [in Chinese, machine trans., edited]
<https://www.weibo.com/2372649470/IqsPV1HZm?from=page_1001062372649470_profile&wvr=6&mod=weibotime&type=comment>

