

Individual health care worker will be permitted to make use of personally purchased and owned respirators in the provision of care at UMMHC facilities with clearance as outlined in the process below. Use of *non-NIOSH approved respirators (including homemade respirators)* will not be allowed as it will not be possible to verify the performance and care instructions with manufacturer recommendations. Caregivers who wish to use a personally owned respirator must comply with the following provisions:

- 1) The healthcare worker is responsible for assuring that the respirator fits appropriately.
- 2) The equipment and manufacturer's instructions for use are reviewed by the Environmental Health & Safety and Infection Control departments prior to use within UMMHC locations.
- 3) The equipment must be able to be disinfected with the current UMMHC disinfectant wipes or supplies approved by UMMHC Infection Control
- 4) The owner is responsible for disinfecting the equipment appropriately according to the manufacturer's guidelines and in accordance with UMMHC procedures
- 5) The caregiver must agree to use the approved respirator only in a manner consistent with UMMHC COVID-19 PPE Mask guidelines and only during those times that require that particular level of protection
 - a. For example, during situations where a UMMHC supplied surgical mask is appropriate the caregiver must use the UMMHC supplied surgical mask rather than the personal respirator comparable to a higher-level respirator
- 6) The equipment meets or exceeds the standard of protection provided by medical respirators and personal protective equipment provided by UMMHC
- 7) The caregiver must obtain all necessary signatures as required on the *Use of Personally Owned Respirators Caregiver Agreement*.

Further clarification on the Personally Owned Respirator process

We have received several questions regarding the exact process of how to obtain approval for personally owned respirators. Please see the following document [\[link\]](#). As a reminder, caregivers will need to have the respirator inspected by Environmental Health and Safety as well as Infection Control and will also need to bring the Instructions for Use (e.g. user/technical manual) for the respirator.

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